FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PALESTINE CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETS IN DAMASCUS

JN131538Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 13 February--The PLO Central Council has affirmed that the central link in the Arab nation's steadfastness in the face of the new conspiracy is the consolidation of the strategic relation with the Syrian Arab Republic in particular and with the steadfastness and confrontation countries in general.

This came in a statement issued by the council at the conclusion of its meeting here yesterday. During the meeting the Executive Committee made a comprehensive review of the current Arab stand in the wake of the resolutions of the two conferences of steadfastness and confrontation in Tripoli and Algiers, as well as the council's contacts on both the Arab and international levels.

The statement declared the PLO Central Council's unanimous adoption of the resolutions taken by the two summit conferences in Tripoli and Algiers. It also stressed its full support for the formation of the pan-Arab front of steadfastness and confrontation aimed at facing all the imperialist-Zionist plots, which are abetted by President as-Sadat's policy and the course he is following, a course which constitutes a serious violation of the principles of Arab struggle against the imperialist-Zionist aggression aimed against our Palestinian Arab people and Arab nation.

The statement added that this policy is giving in to the logic of the Zionist enemy, a relinquishment of the Palestinian Arab right, a disruption of the Arab ranks and an obvious violation of the resolutions of the Arab summit conferences, particularly those of Algiers and Rabat. Besides, this policy puts the destiny of the Arab nation in the hands of imperialism and the Zionist entity. Proceeding from this analysis and the resolutions of the steadfastness and confrontation conferences in Tripoli and Algiers, the Central Council stresses the following:

1. Proceeding from its charter and its adherence to the resolutions of its National Council, the PLO affirms its firm and strict stand against President as-Sadat's policy. It also expresses its determination to continue the armed struggle until its objectives are achieved by the restoration of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to repatriation, self-determination and establishment of their independent state on their national soil under the PLO. Nobody has the right to speak for the Palestinian Arab people or represent them in international circles except their legitimate organization.

2. The Central Council proudly greets the stand of our people in the occupied homeland toward the policy resulting from President as-Sadat's visit. This stand is proof of our people's determination to repulse all attempts at Judaization, setting up settlements and imposition of faits accomplis.

3. The Central Council proudly greets the stand of the masses of our Arab nation in all countries in their support of the PLO. It also greets the stand of the Arab regimes that have refused to violate the resolutions and Charter of the Arab League and stressed their determination to confront the conspiracy. The council calls on the other Arab countries to define a clear stand toward these plots, political stands and current events and offer more support to the real confrontation forces.

4. The Central Council is particularly proud of the principled national stand of the progressive national forces and our masses in Arab Egypt, viewing this stand as (?determination) on the party of the great Egyptian people and heroic Egyptian Army to reject the plans aimed at driving Egypt out of the Arab-Zionist struggle, so that the people of Egypt may resume their historic role in the Arab liberation struggle.

5. The Central Council sees strengthening the strategic relations with the Syrian Arab Republic in particular and with the steadfastness and confrontation countries in general as a central link in the steadfastness of the Arab nation in the fact of the new plots.

6. The council stresses the PLO's great concern for the sovereignty of Lebanon as well as the unity of its soil and people.

7. The Central Council stresses the need for consolidating national unity among all groups of the Palestinian resistance movement as well as for taking more advanced steps, especially in matters related to their military force, on the path of national unity in the face of the dangers and plots to which the Palestinian revolution is exposed.

8. The Central Council calls for effective action to strengthen and develop forms of cooperation and coordination between the Arab countries and national forces, on the one hand, and the socialist countries, the foremost of which is the friendly Soviet Union, as well as the Islamic, African and nonalined countries, on the other.

9. The Central Council affirms its categorical rejection of the imperialist-Zionist plots designed by the United States in our Arab region, Africa and Third World countries, plots which are aimed at bringing these countries under its influence and at the mercy of its greedy monopolies.

Khalid al-Fahum announced that the Palestine National Council will hold its 14th session at the end of March. Consultations are underway to prepare for it and fix the place and time of its convocation.

VOP Report on Meetings

JN131625Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1500 GMT 13 Feb 78 JN

[Text] The PLO Central Council is continuing its meetings in Damascus today in the presence of brother Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, to discuss drawing up a working plan for Palestinian moves in the future as well as for the coordination and consultation with the states of the steadfastness and confrontation summit conference. In today's meeting, the council will also discuss fixing the time and place for convening the next session of the Palestine National Council [PNC].

The Palestine Central Council began its meetings yesterday [as heard] and discussed the new political developments in the Arab region, particularly the results of the steadfastness and confrontation summit conference recently held in Algiers and the measures which should be taken to implement its resolutions. It also discussed the dangers of the Egyptian Zionist dialog and its reflections on the Palestinian issue. The bolstering of cohesion among the Palestinian resistance groups was also discussed.

Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the PNC, announced before yesterday's meeting of the council that the 14th session of the PNC, scheduled to be held in March, will not convene at the Arab League building in Cairo as has been customary since 1967. He said there are several reasons for this, one of which is a matter of principle. He explained that the PNC cannot meet in a city which receives Zionist government and press delegations and others.

'ARAFAT GRANTS INTERVIEW TO HUNGARIAN RADIO, TV

JN151704Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1515 GMT 13 Feb 78 JN

[Text] We will broadcast to you the full text of the interview which brother leader Abu 'Ammar gave to the Hungarian radio and television. The chief of the foreign affairs section at the Hungarian radio and television conducted this interview with brother Abu 'Ammar. The interview will be broadcast simultaneously over all the television stations of the socialist countries. Following is the text of the interview which was broadcast last Sunday. [as heard] [read by announcer]

[Question] Comrade Yasir 'Arafat, how do you assess of the summit conference of steadfastness and confrontation held in Algiers? Does the political statement issued by the summit express your stand?

[Answer] We certainly regard this summit as a very important step in the struggle of our Arab nation. Coming after the Tripoli summit conference, it confirms the determination of the participating sides to achieve their objectives. The Algiers summit gave a strong push forward to the front of steadfastness and confrontation. This means that the front is proceeding with strong, steady steps to consolidate its unity and to reinforce and strengthen the forces participating in the front. Furthermore, it served to draw up the necessary plans and measures to achieve the goals we want to accomplish.

The political statement issued by the summit defines the clear political line adopted by the front of steadfastness and confrontation of our Arab nation. Within this framework, we must define and draw the line very clearly between the front of the enemies and the front of friends in our area and within our Arab nation. As for the front of friends, there is the Soviet Union at the head of the group of the socialist countries. Then there are the nonalined countries, the African countries and the Islamic countries. As for the camp of the enemies, it is represented by the forces of world imperialism under the leadership of the United States; then comes Zionism and their allies in the area. This is the clear and sound political line which, in our view, represents the front of steadfastness and confrontation--a line expressed in the political statement. It has confirmed that this front possesses sufficient components of continuity, life and confrontation and even more than enough. All this will certainly have repercussions on the Middle East issue as a whole. Consequently, it will also have repercussions on the Middle East issue as a whole. Consequently, it will also have repercussions on Europe, European security and the international balance of power.

[Question] Do you believe, Comrade, that practical, tangible and effective steps will follow this strong and clear political statement?

[Answer] We will certainly see practical steps. However, I am committed not to discuss them now. Nevertheless, I can say that we will soon see genuine steps to consolidate, strengthen and push forward the front of steadfastness.

[Question] Comrade 'Arafat, you have sent a number of letters to several permanent members of the Security Council and to Dr Waldheim. Can we know something about the contents of these letters?

[Answer] In these letters, which I will send [future tense as received] and which I briefed my brethren on at the front of steadfastness, we define the line which is being followed by the PLO in its capacity as the sole spokesman and sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Therefore, no one, regardless of who he is, no official regardless of who he is, and no Arab state has the right to speak on behalf of the Palestinian people. The ones who have the right to speak on behalf of the Palestinian people are the Palestinian revolutionaries and those from the ranks of the Palestinian people who are carrying the guns. They are represented by the PLO. Anything short of this is to insist on ignoring the PLO and the national constant rights of the Palestinian people. In this case, there will be no stability, no solutions and no peace in this area. The national rights are the rights of our people to return home, to exercise their right of self-determination and to establish their independent state.

[Question] This means that President as-Sadat has no right to speak on your behalf?

[Answer] I have said not only President as-Sadat--no other Arab head of state has the right right to speak in our name. There are persistent efforts by Vance and Atherton to find an alternative to the Palestinian People [presumably meaning an alternative to the] PLO. I say that there is no alternative to the PLO, which is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, because it represents the guns and revolutionaries of the Palestinian people.

[Question] Comrade 'Arafat, how do you view the possibility of solving the Middle East question and the issue of the Palestinian people issue, that is, the establishment of an independent Palestinian state? What are the possibilities of resolving these issues at present?

[Answer] When any people start their struggle they take no consideration of time. When the Algerian people started their revolution, they did not consider the time or the sacrifices. The Vietnamese people were the same. This is what the Palestinian people are doing. We are not taking into consideration how long we are going to fight. We have an aim for which we are struggling, regardless of time or the sacrifices to reach this aim. Neither time nor sacrifices are too much for the triumph of our cause.

We are not alone in the battle. We are (?struggling) backed by the front of steadfastness and confrontation, the Arab nation from the ocean to the gulf and our friends in the whole world, the socialist countries, and the African and Islamic countries. We are backed by this enormous number of friends. There are [number indistinct] countries which recognize the PLO. [Words indistinct] fewer countries than this recognize the Zionist entity, the so-called Israel. We will fight until victory in order to attain our goals. There will be no peace in the area that bypasses the Palestinian people. The Palestinian people will continue to fight [words indistinct]. On this occasion we may note that within 22 days 17 U.S. statements were made by Carter, Vance and Brzezinski against the PLO. Here I want to say that the force of a fight is judged not only by the power of friends but also by the size of the enemies. When we see this huge force of the enemies facing the Palestinian revolution, we can realize the force and greatness of the revolution.

[Question] Certainly, the (?resolutions) of the front of steadfastness and confrontation are a very big step. [short passage indistinct]

[Answer] A resolution was made to continue efforts [words indistinct] fraternal Iraq. [words indistinct] we will continue (?work). We are hopeful. We will try all we can to achieve this because we believe that the membership of Iraq in the front is extremely important.

[Question] What is behind your steps [words indistinct] if King Husayn opts for joining As-Sadat?

[Answer] (?If) the ruler of Jordan wants to speak for the Palestinian people [words indistinct] they tried and will try to create alternatives to the PLO. However, they have failed and will fail. [Words indistinct] I will bet no one can find a solution without the Palestinian revolution. I say this for the world to hear. I bet no one can [words indistinct].

[Question] This means that you are optimistic about the issues concerning the Palestinian people and their future?

[Answer] I am optimistic. [Words indistinct] a rifle carried by a Palestinian revolutionary. I feel optimistic. We have accustomed even students to carry guns in defense of our people. For this reason [words indistinct] our revolution will continue. This revolution will achieve victory through the sacrifices of its sons and the help of the brothers in the Arab world and friends in the whole world.

[Question] This means that there will be no (?U.S.) reactionary solution in the area?

[Answer] There is only one solution, namely, an Arab solution. Peace can only be an Arab and Palestinian peace.

'ARAFAT REPORTEDLY SENDS LETTER TO KING HUSAYN

NC1014302Y Cairo DPA in Arabic 1345 GMT 10 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 10 February--PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has sent a letter to King Husayn of Jordan proposing the establishment of an Arab front opposed to the Egyptian-Israeli peace talks. The Beirut newspaper AN-NAHAR quotes highly placed Arab sources as saying that the front will be composed of Jordan, Syria, Iraq, the Arab Gulf states and the PLO.

In his letter 'Arafat affirmed that it would be possible to reconcile the Ba'th regimes in Iraq and Syria in order to make Iraq join the new front. Iraq boycotted the anti-As-Sadat summit conference held in Algiers at the beginning of this month. It had also walked out of the Tripoli summit.

'Arafat said the Middle East peace talks must be held under the auspices of the United States and the Soviet Union.

On Thursday it was announced for the first time in Baghdad that an Iraqi delegation will be sent to the Arab popular conference which will be convened in Damascus shortly. The Arab popular conference, consisting of Arab leftist parties opposed to Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat, held its first meeting in Tripoli last year.

PLO DECLARES ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS MILITARY TARGETS

JN1014572 Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1400 GMT 10 Feb 78 JN

[Text] The PLO office in Geneva yesterday released a statement saying that the Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab areas are military targets for the PLO. Dawud Barakat, permanent PLO representative to the United Nations in Geneva, affirmed in the statement that the aim of enemy prime minister Menahem Begin's current visit to Geneva is to collect more money to construct more settlments in the occupied Arab areas. The statement points out that the visit comes at the time when the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva is discussing the Zionist violation of human rights and the continuation of the situation created by the enemy, depriving the Palestinian people of exercising their right to self-determination.

'ARAFAT HOLDS TALKS WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR

JN1115202 Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1500 GMT 11 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, PLO executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, last night met with the Soviet ambassador in Beirut, Aleksandr Soldatov. The meeting was attended by brother Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department, and brother (?Ahmad al-As'ad). The radio correspondent has learned that the meeting dealt with the latest developments in the area.

PAPER SAYS SYRIA-LIBYA-USSR SUMMIT POSSIBLE

NC1308452 Doha QNA in Arabic 0755 GMT 13 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpts] Doha, 13 February--Citing well-informed Arab sources, the Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB reports today that a Syrian-Libyan-Soviet summit conference might be held in the Soviet capital during Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's upcoming visit to Moscow. The newspaper also reports that this conference will have a political and military impact on developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

According to these sources, Libya will pledge to the Soviet Union to pay the bill for all of Syria's arms requirements. The Syrian president will ask the Soviet Union to step up its political activity to foil the U.S.-Israeli moves.

These sources also pointed out that important political contacts are currently underway between Algeria, the Soviet Union and Syria to confront the latest U.S. shuttle diplomacy, which is expected to begin in the next 2 weeks.

The sources explained to the newspaper that the Soviet Union has pledged once again to foil any political moves which ignore Palestinian rights. They also said that the current contacts between Moscow, Syria and the Palestinians will lead to important results.

KUWAIT

AMIR ADDRESSES NATION, TO CONTINUE PAST POLICIES

LD132001Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Feb 78 LD

[Address to nation by Kuwaiti amir on the occasion of the end of mourning for the late ruler--live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Brothers and sons of my homeland, the death of Amir Shaykh Sabah as-Salim as-Sabah was a great calamity for all of us. We lost a good leader and father. The manifest feelings expressed by all greatly helped to ease the weight of the bereavement. They were a true embodiment of the spirit of solidarity and kinship characterizing our society since ancient times.

I have decided, after the end of the official mourning, to talk to all of you, to talk to all of you who I look up to as fathers, brothers or sons. The best way to immortalize the memory of our great deceased is to continue his march by working for the good of our homeland and nation, to follow in his footsteps and the footsteps of his blessed predecessors, who laid down the foundations of our beloved homeland and set the bases for its advancement. Brothers, the world today is experiencing a difficult period dominated by anxiety, disturbance and strife. Most countries suffer from unenviable political, economic and social conditions. In our Kuwaiti society we are not isolated from what is happening in other countries, but with God's help and through the rigidity, conviction and noble character of our great people, we have overcome a great many of these problems. We thank God that our homeland remains an oasis of amity, security and prosperity.

We shall continue our desire to entrench our genuine democracy by popular participation stemming from our heritage and traditions. We shall work for its development and maturity in its exercise in response to the requirements of our new society within the framework of our values, ethics and religious principles. We aspire in this new phase of our progress to build the Kuwait of the future and a better society in which our achievements, based on justice, brotherhood, equality and dignified life for all, can gain strength, and in which we can live as one family in amity in the interests of the homeland and its advancement. Building the future Kuwait is the great challenge which must be grasped by our generation. To this end we must begin to build the modern state which can embrace advanced technology and modern methods in various aspects of life.

Perhaps the first thing that should be done is the modernization of the general administration and the state civil service and the application of the real concept of public service. Public services and utilities must be developed and improved in all sectors. Laws and regulations should be amended so as to solve the problems of the citizens in their dealings with the ministries and their departments.

The preservation of the natural resources which God bestowed on our country will continue to receive our attention, being the main source of our national revenue at present. We shall continue the policy of moderation in their utilization, of protecting the right of the coming generations to them and of exploiting them well so as to insure that the present and future requirements of our country can be met, while we seek the help of modern technology and science, such as the peaceful uses of nuclear, solar and other forms of energy.

In addition we shall continue the strengthening of our national economy, developing it and expanding its activities in domestic and foreign fields. While the private sector has an admirable role in the history of our society, we envisage a more constructive role for it in the future Kuwait. We expect it to make a greater contribution in serving our new society which has never failed to afford it protection and freedom of action.

Brothers, the current Arab situation fills the heart of every Arab sincere to his homeland and nation with pain and bitterness. Zionism, imperialism and the forces hostile to our nation played their game and led our Arab world to its current state of division and disarray. Kuwait, which believes in its religion and Arabism, will remain loyal and true to itself and its brothers. It will continue to fight for strengthening understanding and closeness, and for the unity of voice following the same known policy it follows toward its fraternal Arab states. It will respect its commitments and undertakings. It will strive to develop relations of fraternity and mutual confidence. It will adhere to the resolutions of the Arab summit conference. It will be faithful to the people of Palestine--represented by the PLO.

Kuwait will continue its previous role in developing fraternal cooperation in various fields with our brothers in the gulf with whom we have from time immemorial the closest ties of kinship and history and common future. We will devote our efforts to strengthening those fraternal ties. We will also continue the policy of coordination and joint cooperation for the good of the area and the welfare of its member countries. We will stress that safeguarding security and stability is a responsibility of the area's countries and that this area, which is of vital importance to the entire world, must remain out of international struggles.

Kuwait will continue to follow its unchanging foreign policy. It will continue to build its relations with all states on the basis of esteem and mutual respect and noninterference in the domestic affairs, without discrimination between East and West, and in a way that serves our national interests and our national issues.

FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUES STATEMENT ON HORN OF AFRICA

NC1115517 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1523 GMT 11 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 11 February--The Arab League's General Secretariat has conveyed to the Arab governments the text of the note it received today from the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry on Kuwait's position regarding the situation in the Horn of Africa.

The Kuwaiti note says that Kuwait's attitude regarding the current events in the Horn of Africa and reports of an Ethiopian attack on Somalia is one of work for stable peace in that area of vital importance to the Arab world. It adds that the problems should be settled within the framework of the OAU and in accordance with the principles of the United Nations.

The Kuwaiti note emphasizes that the defense of Somali territory is a collective Arab responsibility since Somalia is an Arab League member and since the Arab Joint Defense Charter applies to all members.

QATAR

AMIR RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE

NC140900Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0820 GMT 14 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 14 February--In his office at Ad-Dawhah Palace this morning, his highness the amir of Qatar, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, received the Somali ambassador to Qatar, Abdullah Haj Abdulrahman.

In a statement to QNA following the meeting, the ambassador said he had conveyed to his highness the amir an oral message from His Excellency Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre dealing with the current situation in the Horn of Africa.

UAE

VICE PRESIDENT CONFERS WITH SOMALI ENVOY ON HORN

JN131142Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1110 GMT 13 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Dubayy, 13 February--Shaykh Rashid ibn Sa'id al-Maktum, vice president of the UAE and ruler of Dubai, today received Somali Ambassador to the UAE Abdi Nur Ali Yusuf. The discussion during this meeting dealt with bilateral relations between the two countries and the situation in the Horn of Africa in light of the recent developments there.

ENVOY DENIES TROOPS MASSING ON ABU DHABI BORDER

LD110958Y Rabat MAP in Arabic 0800 GMT 11 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Rabat--The UAE ambassador to Rabat, quoting reliable official sources, refuted yesterday the reports carried by some papers that the Emirate of Dubai has massed the country's forces along the border with Abu Dhabi and placed them in a state of alert. The reports followed the decision taken by the head of the UAE for the unification of the military regions of the state under one command and the appointment of Shaykh Sultan ibn Zayid Al Nuhayyan as commander in chief of the UAE Armed Forces. The UAE ambassador in Rabat stressed that these rumors, the source of which is unknown, are tendentious and unfounded.

YEMEN--PDRY

DPRK VICE PRESIDENT ARRIVES IN ADEN FOR TALKS

LD121750Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Summary] DPRK Vice President Pak Song-chol arrived in Aden today. Mr Pak and his delegation are expected to stay several days.

"Comrade Pak Song-chol, DPRK vice president, told the press on arrival that he is glad to be visiting the PDRY in order to acquaint himself with the successes achieved by the people of the PDRY under the leadership of the United Political Organization-National Front.

"Comrade Pak Song-chol said that he will have an exchange of views with brother officials on questions of mutual interest and on the expansion of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. He said he is convinced that his visit and that of the party and government delegation will expand and strengthen friendship and cooperation in all spheres between the two countries. The visit will also help to strengthen solidarity and cooperation in the common struggle against imperialism, colonialism, racism and Zionism."

PRESIDENT AS-SADAT RETURNS TO CAIRO 13 FEB

[Editorial Report NC] Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 2100 GMT on 13 February carried a live relay from Cairo airport to describe President Anwar as-Sadat's return from a tour of the United States and several European countries. President as-Sadat's plane touched down at 2112 GMT. The president left the plane at 2115 GMT and was received by Vice President Husni Mubarak, Prime Minister Mamduh Salim and other officials. President as-Sadat boarded a helicopter at 2126 GMT to fly to his home. The helicopter took off at 2127 GMT and the relay ended at 2128 GMT.

AS-SADAT HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE IN PARIS 13 FEB

NC131045Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 13 Feb 78 NC

[Press conference held by Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat at the (Mariniet) palace in paris--live; unless otherwise indicated, questions are in French and answers in English, with superimposed paraphrased Arabic translation, processed for paraphrased Arabic]

[Text] [Question] Mr President, the relations between the United States and Israel are tense now. This is a question addressed to the president. Israel has accused the United States of siding with Egypt. What is Your Excellency's opinion? Will this affect the peace process?

The president says: I would like first of all to express to you and the French people my gratitude for France's appreciation of the initiative I adopted. I feel grateful. I hope that our joint efforts will lead us to peace in the area. As for your question, I have already expressed my opinion on the problem of the settlements. What is most important in the issue is the right of self-determination for the Palestinians. The other problem is that of the settlements. Regarding the settlements, the president says, the Israeli stand has been condemned by the whole world. I do not wish to comment on what has happened between the United States and Israel. There are special relations between them. This is what I would say in commenting on this stand.

Answering another question, the president says: I must tell you, friends, that my discussions with French President Giscard d'Estaing dealt with the entire situation in the Arab-Israeli conflict and with the Horn of Africa, but I did not ask for any arms from President Giscard d'Estaing. We discussed the situation and I put him completely in the picture after my trip to the United States and the other states, including Britain and Germany.

Asked his opinion on the attitude of the United States, on a solution to the Middle East problem and on relations between the West Bank and Jordan, the president says: Whenever we arrive at a declaration of principles, Israel will automatically have to admit that it is impermissible to seize the lands of others by aggression. Therefore,, Israel will be compelled to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza as well as from the other Arab territory. Gaza belongs to Egypt and the West Bank belongs to King Husayn. Therefore, King Husayn will join Egypt at some stage to prepare for the Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and to discuss the question of security. The same will happen regarding Gaza. Egypt will continue to follow the same path until we achieve the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people, that is, during the transitional period only.

[Question in Arabic] The rejectionist group which met in Algiers speaks in the name of the Palestinians. What is your view?

President as-Sadat says: We went through the same experience in the past when we ratified the second disengagement agreement. All of them spoke in the name of the Palestinians and urged the Palestinians to attack Egypt. This was instigated by the Soviet Union. As was proved at the time, this was a strange process. The Palestinians alone must speak in the name of the Palestinians.

As-Sadat is asked: Are you in agreement with President Giscard d'Estaing regarding the situation in the Horn of Africa? Do you agree with extending aid to Somalia in its war with Ethiopia?

President as-Sadat answers: According to my knowledge, President Giscard does not want to intervene in the Ogaden problem. President Giscard and I want to safeguard Somali territory against Cuban and Soviet interference or against any attempts to attack or invade Somali territory.

As-Sadat is asked: Will you visit Jerusalem to achieve a peaceful solution or will you invited Begin to visit Cairo?

The president says: We have no plans in this regard. I have met with President Carter, the U.S. Senate and the Congress. We agreed that Atherton should return to the area to begin a shuttle mission between Israel and Egypt. However, if no changes occur and if we do not find a way to close the gap between the two stands, I will definitely not visit Jerusalem and I will not invite Begin to visit Egypt.

Another question addressed to President as-Sadat says: It has been 2 months since you began your initiative. Do you agree now that the current problem is the liberation of Jerusalem? Is the liberation of Jerusalem the problem or the obstacle which is facing you now? Does this have religious significance? You said on a previous occasion that you could solve the entire problem in 3 days if Israel were to withdraw from Arab territory and Jerusalem. What is your opinion after the passage of 2 months since your initiative?

President as-Sadat says: I still believe we can reach an agreement if the spirit which prevailed when I began my initiative prevails again. I am confident that we can overcome the problems if the Israeli attitude changes. We have disagreed, as you know, on the declaration of principles. Such a declaration must govern our actions so we may be able to solve the problems which are facing us. We could seek the aid of such a declaration which would help in settling the differences.

Another question addressed to the president deals with the situation in Lebanon.

President as-Sadat says: Isn't this an odd situation? We are an indivisible part of the situation, but we have no connection whatsoever with this problem, that is, the Syrian interference there. We have demanded that Lebanon should restore its identity and position in the Arab world. Our stand is that we will not accept the partition of Lebanon. Lebanon must return to its previous status. It must exercise sovereignty over its territory.

Another question is put to the president regarding his visit to Jerusalem. The question is how the president defines the situation in the wake of this visit.

The president says: I thank the Israeli people. I must admit here before you--just as I declared before I left Jerusalem--that the Israeli people gave me a very warm welcome in Jerusalem, particularly after I delivered my speech in the Knesset. I believe that this attitude still prevails in Israel. This attitude was expressed not only by the various Jewish societies in the world but by the Israeli people themselves. I continue to receive letters on this. In my opinion, we have overcome the psychological barrier which existed between us for a long time.

After my return to Cairo, I noticed that the Israeli Government still clings to concepts which it should have given up following my visit to Jerusalem. They shoud give up the old concepts.

The president is asked whether the great respect with which the peoples of Europe view him has affected him. [no answer given]

Asked his impression after his visit to a number of European states, President as-Sadat says: I felt in the United States and the other European states which I visited. [sentence as heard] I visited Germany, Austria and Romania. I also held talks with my friend President Giscard d'Estaing here. I will also meet with the Italian president. I want to tell you frankly that I feel greatly encouraged, particularly after I was feeling discouraged and with no one to encourage me. The presidents with whom I have met have shown complete understanding.

The president is asked what stand he will take regarding oil resources in Sinai.

He says that the situation is linked with the oil which has been discovered under the waters of the Gulf of Suez. The president, noting that this is the third discovery in the Gulf of Suez, says: I am looking forward to joining OPEC. I hope these oil discoveries will solve the economic problems. The waters of the Gulf of Suez are Egyptian and the lands there are Egyptian. We will not enter into joint projects with any side, because the oilfields belong to the Egyptian people. There is an American company operating there. It is Aramco.

The Israelis were trying to create problems for us. They reached a very dangerous point, to the extent that each of us mobilized his forces. The United States at that time intervened. The situation was resolved only after the United States sent a letter to Israel affirming that these waters and lands are Egyptian.

President as-Sadat is asked: Are you satisfied with what President Carter is doing?

The president says: I have spoken about this in my departure speech. I was feeling discouraged when I went there, but President Carter is determined to continue to work for a peaceful solution. I will do the same as well. President Carter and the United States, by sending Atherton to the area, can solve or close the gap between us.

The president is asked: You will visit the pope in the Vatican after having visited Jerusalem. Are you satisfied with the pope's stand on Jerusalem?

The president answers: I am not aware of the pope's stand on Jerusalem, but I might have formal talks with him and explain to him our views on this stand. In a television interview, when Begin was next to me, I said that no Arab, be he Moslem or Christian--nobody in the Arab world and nobody in the Moslem world, which has a population of over 700 million--can accept Israel's control over this holy area. This is our stand, too, but I agree that the city should not be divided again and that there should be freedom of movement for the three religions.

Asked what Israel must do to resume the negotiations now that this juncture has been reached, President as-Sadat says: We have agreed that Atherton should come to the area to begin his shuttle mission between Israel and Egypt. A declaration of principles will govern our actions in the future and will facilitate them. It is possible for us to reach agreement on a specific and clear declaration. We will strive to achieve this. [Indistinct question in Arabic]

King Husayn, President as-Sadat says, has expressed his stand and has supported (?As-Sadat). His latest contact with me was during the period when our foreign minister had left Cairo for Jerusalem to attend the meetings of the Political Committee. At the time I had called for convening a meeting of the higher National Security Council. He contacted me on that day. Before my departure for the United States, the vice president toured the Arab states.

[Indistinct question]

Yes, says President as-Sadat. I received letters from President Mallum when I was on the plane, about to depart. We have helped him before and will help him in the future as well.

A reporter is now addressing a question to President as-Sadat regarding the president's stand on Jerusalem.

President as-Sadat says: Let me tell you that I am very proud. as I said before, of the warm feelings and reception accorded me in the United States, France and the whole world and from the Israeli people as well. This is a (?source) or pride. I shall work for the sake of peace. As I said in the United States, I have chosen my destiny, which is linked with peace. When I feel that my efforts have failed, I will put the situation to the millions who have supported my initiative. Thank you.

AS-SADAT VISITS ITALY, MEETS WITH POPE 13 FEB

For Italian and Egyptian reportage on Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat's 13 February visit to Italy and the Vatican, and his meeting with Pope Paul, see the 14 February Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

MUBARAK RECEIVES U.S. CHARGE D'AFFAIRES 14 FEB

NC1412137 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1008 GMT 14 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 14 February--Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today received at his office Mr Matthews, the U.S. charge d'affaires in Cairo.

KUWAIT PAPER: AS-SADAT TO TOUR ARAB COUNTRIES

NC1108107 Doha QNA in Arabic 0750 GMT 11 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 11 February--The Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH reports today that Egyptian President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat will tour a number of Arab countries to explain to the Arab leaders the results of his current tour of Morocco, the United States and some European countries.

AS-SIYASAH believes that Damascus might be included in President as-Sadat's tour, which will begin following his return from his current tour. As-Sadat's tour of the Arab countries will be aimed at restoring unity in the Arab ranks.

AL-AKHBAR CITED ON POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

NC120752Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Feb 78 NC

[Text] The Egyptian newspaper AL-AKHBAR reports today that Cairo will not resume the meetings of the Egyptian-Israeli Political Committee until full understanding is reached on the declaration of principles regarding the Middle East crisis.

Chief Editor Musa Sabri says that Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Alfred Atherton's hopes of achieving success look slim if he confines himself to the role of a postman between Egypt and Israel. Sabri says that if Atherton succeeds in reaching an agreement on principles between the two countries, Jordan will be able to join the negotiations on the status of the occupied West Bank.

AL-AHRAM EDITORIAL ON U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS

NC140942Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 14 Feb 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, AL-AHRAM comments on the uproar Israel is creating against the United States because of the statement the U.S. Government issued recently considering the Israeli settlements as a violation of the principles of international law and an obstacle to the peace efforts. AL-AHRAM says: Menahem Begin emerged from an Israeli cabinet meeting yesterday to protest the U.S. stand and allege that the Israeli Government continues to adhere to its stand that the Israeli settlements are in full accordance with international law.

Those who have been following the actions of the Israeli leadership since President as-Sadat began his visit to Washington realize the extent of the anxiety of Israel, which fears the results of the visit and also fears a possible new American stand which would place U.S. interests in the area above all other considerations. In this regard, President as-Sadat has rightly said that the United States holds the cards in the game and that it is the only party qualified to exert real pressure on Israel.

AL-AHRAM expresses surprise that Israel is raising this storm when the United States has not yet started to exercise its main role and when Atherton has not yet returned to the area to begin his mission. It appears that Israel wants to stir up a fierce campaign inside the United States against the U.S. administration on the basis that it has abandoned its role as a mediator and taken Egypt's side. The entire world knows all these things about Israel. The American taxpayer himself knows now how far Israel can go in blackmailing the United States because of its stand. All those who look forward to the establishment of peace in the area appreciate the recent positive U.S. stand. However, it remains for the United States to exercise its main duty in establishing peace by seeing that the international resolutions are implemented and the principles of human rights are respected, and by (?denouncing) those who trade with peace but who want nothing except expansion and domination. Will the U.S. administration go ahead and shoulder its responsibilities or will it submit to the Israeli blackmail campaigns? This is the challenge the U.S. Government is facing now.

AL-JUMHURIYAH ON EGYPTIAN-PALESTINIAN RELATIONS

NC111005Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0840 GMT 11 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 11 February--The Egyptian newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH reports that in the next few days there will be new moves between Cairo and the Palestinian resistance, particularly after President Anwar as-Sadat returns from his current tour in Europe. AL-JUMHURIYAH believes that President as-Sadat may meet with a senior Palestinian official when he visits Bucharest tomorrow.

The paper says that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is now preparing to define the PLO's stand on the recent developments in the area after reviewing all the difficulties facing him.

AL-JUMHURIYAH reports that Cairo has recently approved the return of the Fatah Cairo representative, Ribhi 'Awad, and has said that he belongs to the moderate elements in the Palestinian resistance. The paper confirms that the return of 'Awad, who was expelled from Cairo last month because of the PLO's stand on President as-Sadat's peace initiative, is the result of the successful reconciliation which has taken place recently between Cairo and the moderates in the PLO [words indistinct].

The Egyptian paper says that another result of the reconciliation has been the PLO's participation in the meetings of the Arab League despite the Tripoli decision rejecting the Arab League and the meetings which are characterized by [passage indistinct].

On the other hand, AL-JUMHURIYAH reports that the PLO has not agreed on the venue of the Palestine National Council meeting. The National Council has always used Cairo to hold its meetings in the past.

The paper says that the Libyan leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, has invited the Palestine National Council to meet in Tripoli but that the invitation has not yet been accepted.

AL-JUMHURIYAH cites a statement by the chairman of the Palestine National Council, Khalid al-Fahum, in which he denies that the meeting will be held in Cairo as usual. He has said that it will be held in another Arab capital and that a decision on the venue will be made at the next council meeting which will be held in Damascus.

AL-JUMHURIYAH further states that circles close to the resistance have reported a serious dispute between the moderates and extremists in the Palestinian ranks and these circles have also spoken about PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's stand. The paper says that 'Arafat is inclined to join the moderates but is afraid of the continued threats by the extremists.

PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF AFRICAN DISPUTES SOUGHT

NC111928Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1920 GMT 11 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 11 February--Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that Egypt seeks a peaceful settlement of the current conflicts in Africa and that it is exerting diplomatic efforts to settle them within an African framework in accordance with the OAU's principles and charter.

SOMALI ENVOY BRIEFS GHALI ON HORN OF AFRICA

JN1314347 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Cairo, 13 February--Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, today met with Abdulrahim Abby Farah, Somali ambassador in Cairo. It has been learned that Ambassador Farah briefed Dr Ghali on the latest developments in the Horn of Africa and the fighting currently taking place between Somalia and Ethiopia. It should be noted that Egypt sent a memo to OAU Secretary General William Etiki pointing out the seriousness of the situation in the Horn of Africa and calling for increased African endeavors to resolve the dispute between the two African countries. This memo results from Egypt's faith that the solution must come from the African Continent and must be based on the OAU Charter. The memo also results from Egypt's support of every African effort in this connection and its rejection of foreign intervention in African issues.

EGYPT TO PARTICIPATE IN OAU CONFERENCE IN LIBYA

NC1315297 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Feb 78 NC

[Text] The Arab Republic of Egypt has decided to participate in the OAU foreign ministers meetings which are to begin on 18 February in Tripoli, Libya, because of Egypt's eagerness to consolidate Arab-African solidarity and in accordance with its responsibility to attend the OAU meetings.

The Egyptian delegation to these meetings will be headed by Ahmad Hatatah, Egyptian ambassador in Dar es-Salaam.

QNA REPORTS EXECUTION OF ISRAELI SPY 12 FEB

NC1308407 Doha QNA in Arabic 0820 GMT 13 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 13 February--The death sentence was carried out in a Cairo prison yesterday against spy Samir 'Abd al-Mu'ti at-Tamimi, who was convicted by Egyptian authorities of collaborating with Israeli intelligence.

The spy was born in Hebron in occupied Palestine. He was married to an Egyptian. He was arrested on 27 October 1975 and was tried by a military court, which sentenced him to death.

HAYKAL: ARMED STRUGGLE ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO PEACE

JN1308587 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 11 Feb 78 pp 1,13 JN

[Text] The former chief editor of the Cairo paper AL-AHRAM, Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal, has said that the only alternative to President as-Sadat's initiative and the Geneva conference is to continue the struggle. The final aim of this struggle, Haykal explained, is not to destroy Israel but to prevent it from living peacefully on our territory and dominating our conscience. Haykal added that the struggle against Israel should be based on imposing a political, economic and cultural boycott on the Jewish state and then isolating it. At the same time, we should prevent Israel from living peacefully by waging a series of attacks and wars which we might lose or win.

Haykal said that at first President as-Sadat's peace initiative was a personal decision but that the public support it received, for whatever reasons, has given it a collective nature. Haykal added: My position differs from that of the rejection front states on three counts: It is not possible to describe President as-Sadat's initiative as a personal act; it is not possible to accuse the president of Egypt of treason, especially after the October 1973 war; and finally the rejection front leaders have not presented an alternative to his initiative.

Haykal said: It is only in this way that we will be able to defeat Israel in the long term, even if this means that our future generations would have to continue what we have begun.

Haykal expressed the belief that the situation can change despite the current division in the Arab world. At any rate, he said, the current situation in the Arab world is much better than it was before. Concluding, Haykal said that the structure of the PLO as a revolutionary movement guarantees the legitimacy of the organization. As long as the PLO preserves this structure, nobody can deprive it of legitimacy.

RIYAD LEAVES CAIRO FOR BAGHDAD MEETING 11 FEB

NC111821Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1807 GMT 11 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 11 February--Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad left Cairo for Baghdad today to head the meetings of the ninth session of the technical aid fund for the African and Arab states.

During the 2-day meetings, which will start tomorrow, the fund will discuss the requests by nine Arab and African states for technical aid during the current year. The fund will also discuss a new strategy for technical aid in order to consolidate joint Arab-African cooperation in implementation of the resolutions of the first Arab-African summit conference, which was held in Cairo last March. Last year the fund gave $6 million worth of aid to 32 Arab and African states.

SAUDI KING SENDS LETTER TO PRESIDENT AS-SADAT

NC111312Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today received the ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Cairo, who handed his excellency a letter from His Majesty King Khalid for President Anwar as-Sadat.

AL-QAYSUNI, HAMID MEET WITH ITALIAN BANKER

JN131443Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 13 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Cairo, 13 February--Deputy Prime Minister for Financial and Economic Affairs Dr 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Qaysuni today met with the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Italian Commercial Bank, Mr (Monti), who is currently visiting Cairo. During the meeting, they discussed financial and economic conditions in Egypt and the efforts which the Egyptian Government is making to rectify the economic course in Egypt, as well as the results anticipated from these efforts on the domestic and foreign levels. They also discussed several questions related to strengthening and developing aspects of financial and trade cooperation between Egypt and Italy and the means to activate the financial and commercial relations between the two countries. They also discussed the economic open-door policy which Egypt is currently following, the guarantees and facilities provided by the law on investment of Arab and foreign capital in Egypt, and the prospects for investment in Egypt.

Finance Minister Dr Salah Hamid also met with (Monti) today. They discussed the possibility of utilizing the experience of Italian banks in supporting and developing Egyptian banks as well as the possibility of exchanging expertise between the two sides in this field and the role which the Italian Commercial Bank can perform in this connection. They also discussed ways to enhance and develop relations between the Egyptian and Italian banks in the financial and trade fields and the possibility of providing certain tax and customs facilities to encourage these relations. The Italian trade delegation arrived in Cairo last Thursday for a 5-day visit to Egypt.

HAMMADI MEETS WITH ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL

JN121426Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 12 Feb 73 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 12 February--Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi met here today with Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad. During the meeting they reviewed Arab League affairs and the joint Arab action under current circumstances. Riyad is visiting Baghdad to attend the meetings of the board of directors of the Arab Fund for Technical Assistance, which he chairs. The meetings of the fund began here earlier today.

FOREIGN MINISTER HAMMADI MEETS WITH UN OFFICIAL

JN131448Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 13 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 13 February--Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, minister of foreign affairs, met here today with Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, executive president of the UN Economic Commission for Western Asia. During the meeting the work of the commission and the question of transferring its headquarters to Iraq were discussed. Al-'Attar arrived here last evening on a 3-day visit to Iraq to discuss a number of subjects related to the activities of the commission.

DEFENSE MINISTER RECEIVES IRANIAN CHIEF OF STAFF

JN131225Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1105 GMT 13 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 13 February--'Adnan Khayrallah, Revolution Command Council member and minister of defense, met here at noon today with Iranian Army Chief of Staff Gen Gholam Reza Azhari and the delegation accompanying him. General Azhari met earlier with the chief of staff of the Iraqi Armed Forces.

COMORAN MINISTER DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH OFFICIAL

JN131439Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0946 GMT 13 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 13 February--Latif Nasif Jasim, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform, met this morning with Tadjidine Massoundi, Comoros minister of finance. The discussion during this meeting dealt with the means to strengthen relations between the two countries.

Delivers Message to Al-Bakr

JN121055Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1020 GMT 12 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 12 February--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr has received a message from the president of the Republic of the Comoros dealing with the means to strengthen and develop the relations between the two countries for their mutual interests. The message was conveyed by Comoros Finance Minister Tadjidine Massoundi during his meeting with President al-Bakr at noon today. The meeting was attended by Iraqi Finance Minister Dr Fawzi 'Abdallah. The Comoran minister arrived in Baghdad 2 days ago.

SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH HUNGARY

JN131443Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1026 GMT 13 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 13 February--The Iraqi Institute for Scientific Research and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences signed here today a cooperation protocol on developing scientific cooperation in a variety of fields.

The cooperation protocol covers technology, agriculture, the environment and scientific-technological information. The protocol also stipulates the exchange of visits among officials, scientists, experts and researchers, as well as participation in scientific research work and cooperation in developing facilities to train researchers and technicians by both parties.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH SWITZERLAND

JN111150Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 11 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 11 February--Iraq and Switzerland signed an agreement on economic, trade and technical cooperation today.

The agreement provides for developing trade and stimulating bilateral cooperation in the economic and technical spheres based on equality and mutual benefit. The agreement also provides for forming a joint committee to develop cooperation between the two countries and to study the ways and means necessary to achieve this development.

The agreement was signed for Iraq by Mahdi Muhsin 'Awdah, under secretary for foreign relations of the Ministry of Trade, and for Switzerland by (Arnauld Herkin), Swiss ambassador in Baghdad.

OAPEC OFFICIALS ARRIVE FOR OFFICIAL VISIT 14 FEB

JN141038Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1004 GMT 14 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 14 February--Dr 'Ali 'Atiqah, secretary general of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), accompanied by Muhammad Hafiz, director of training at the organization, arrived here today on a short visit to Iraq.

In a press statement, Dr 'Atiqah said that he will hold consultations with Iraqi officials on a number of issues related to the organization.

He pointed out that his talks with Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, minister of oil, will center on the preparatory stages for the foundation of the Arab oil training institute to be established in Baghdad as previously approved by the organization.

SAUDI OFFICIAL LEAVES FOLLOWING ARAB ECONOMIC MEETING

JN131305Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 13 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 13 February--Muhammad as-Suqyar, Saudi assistant minister of finance, left Baghdad at noon today after attending part of the meeting of the board of the Arab Fund for Technical Assistance to Arab and African countries.

The meeting which began in Baghdad yesterday, is discussing means of expanding joint Arab-African activities.

BULGARIAN WOMEN'S DELEGATION ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN102030Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Elena Lagadinova, chairman of the Committee of Bulgarian Women, arrived in Baghdad this evening heading a delegation of Bulgarian women on a 1-week visit to Iraq at the invitation of the General Union of Iraqi Women. The Bulgarian women's delegation will hold talks with the General Union of Iraqi Women with the aim of strengthening the means of cooperation between the two women's organizations in all fields.

AL-JUMHURIYAH DESCRIBES U.S. POSITION AS DECEPTIVE

JN1408311Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 14 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 14 February--The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH asserts that the United States is still playing the game of deception; it is announcing what it is not doing, and doing what it is not announcing. The United States is trying to conceal the fact that its policy is tied to the joint imperialist-Zionist strategy.

The paper says that the United States is calling on its "ally Israel" to make some concessions on the question of the settlements now that As-Sadat has nothing else to concede. Thus the whole question is portrayed as though it is one of sentiments and verbal arguments when any layman understands that the United States is not only behind the Zionist settlements but has also been behind the Zionist entity since the beginning.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that U.S. deception cannot hide the facts. The Begin government could not have said "no" to Washington had it not been fully confident that what the Carter administration wanted was not what it was announcing. It is sufficient to recall that 2 months ago Carter himself had approved the Begin settlement plan, whose major provision is maintaining the Zionist settlements in Sinai.

The paper refers to U.S. aid to the Zionist entity and says that according to the last statistical report issued in Washington, the U.S. Treasury bears expenses amounting to $700 for each Zionist in the occupied territory every year. The report confirms that this aid constututes a basic factor in charting Tel Aviv's policy.

Concluding, AL-JUMHURIYAH describes the U.S. talks concerning the settlements as a smokescreen to buy time for the imperialist-Zionist strategy.

LABOR, SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTER RETURNS FROM BAHRAIN

JN1015362 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Babakr Mahmud Rasul, minister of labor and social affairs, and the delegation accompanying him returned to Baghdad this morning after having participated in the conference of ministers of labor and social affairs of Arab Gulf countries convened in Bahrain (?3-8) February.

In a statement to INA, Rasul stated that the conference made a number of important decisions which will serve economic and social development in the Arab Gulf countries, namely, to implement economic and social development by planning and developing the labor force.

INDUSTRIAL DELEGATION LEAVES FOR VISIT TO INDIA

JN1310212 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 13 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 13 February--An Iraqi industrial delegation left Baghdad today for New Delhi on a week-long official visit to India. Bahjat 'Abdallah, chairman of the state organization for planning and industrial establishments and head of the delegation, has declared that his talks with the Indian officials will center on cooperation in the field of petrochemical industry. It is understood the Iraqi organization is currently building a big complex for petrochemical industries in southern Iraq.

RC ORDERS PROPERTY OF 13 LAWYERS SEIZED

LD102030Y Baghdad ATH-THAWRAH in Arabic 6 Feb 78 p 4 LD

[Text] The RCC has issued a decision according to which the movable and immovable property of a number of persons is to be seized. The following is the text of the decision:

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph (A) of Article 42 of the provisional constitution, the RCC, at its meeting on 5 February, has decided the following:

First: To seize the movable and immovable property of the persons whose names are listed below:

1. Hamid Isma'il Ibrahim al-'Ani, lawyer;
2. Jasim Muhammad Tu'mah al-Badri, lawyer;
3. Isma'il al-'Amiri, lawyer;
4. Lu'ay 'Abdallah as-Sa'id-, lawyer;
5. Faysal 'Abd Najm al-'Abdali, lawyer;
6. 'Isam Tal'at Qadrat, lawyer;
7. Rahim Wahl Shadhar, lawyer;
8. Hasan Salman an-Naddawi, lawyer;
9. Faysal Habib al-Khayzaran, lawyer;
10. 'Ali ash-Shujayri, lawyer;
11. Muhsin Nur al-'Adhari, lawyer;
12. Mahmud al-'Ali, lawyer;
13. 'Abd ar-Razzaq 'Abd al-Qadir al-Hadithi, lawyer.

Second: The persons mentioned in paragraph one above are banned from practicing law and acting as agents for national or foreign companies.

Third: The ministers concerned and head of the Public Authority for the Management of Liquidation of Seized Property shall carry out this decision.

[Signed] Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, chairman of the RCC

BRIEFS

AVIATION OFFICIAL VISITS KUWAIT--Baghdad, 14 February--'Abd al-Karim an-Nada, president of the State Organization for Civil Aviation, left for Kuwait today at the head of a delegation on a visit of several days. During the visit, the delegation will hold talks with officials of the Kuwaiti State Organization for Civil Aviation aimed at signing an air agreement granting Iraq Airways the right of transportation between Baghdad and Kuwait, via Basra, and between Kuwait-Muscat and Kuwait-San'a'. [Text] [Baghdad INA in Arabic 0755 GMT 14 Feb 78 JN]

NEW OIL REFINERY--Baghdad, 12 February--Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, RCC member and oil minister, today opened As-Samawah refinery in Al-Muthannah district in southern Iraq. The cost of the project is 2.5 million Iraqi dinars. The production capacity of the refinery is 10,000 barrels daily. [Baghdad INA in Arabic 1550 GMT 12 Feb 78 JN]

AIR AGREEMENT WITH QATAR--Baghdad, 14 February--'Umar al-Kawari, director general of the Qatari Civil Aviation Department, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Baghdad last evening on a visit of several days to Iraq. Al-Kawari has stated that during his visit he will sign an air transport cooperation agreement between Iraq and Qatar within the framework of cooperation between the two fraternal countries. [Text] [Baghdad INA in Arabic 0752 GMT 14 Feb 78 JN]

HUSAYN: JORDAN WILL NOT BARGAIN ON ARAB RIGHTS

JN1317057 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Feb 78 JN

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn, supreme commander of the Jordanian armed forces, has affirmed that Jordan will not relinquish one single inch of Arab land or bargain on any of the Arab land and rights. Jordan will safeguard dignity, defend rights and work for the future of the coming generations, his majesty said.

In participating in the celebrations marking the 30th anniversary of the Princess 'Alyah Brigade, which coincides with the birthday of Her Highness Princess 'Alyah, his majesty said: It is a great honor for the men of this brigade to serve under its noble Arab banner in this elite Arab army and the Jordanian armed forces.

His majesty praised the Princess 'Alyah Brigade and said: This brigade--the brigade of heroism and real men and in our long march and in the face of all challenges--has had the honor of serving and giving on the soil of Arab Palestine, in cherished Jerusalem and elsewhere in 1948 and 1967 and in the Al-Karamah battle and all the battles and dangers which this steadfast homeland has faced.

PAPER SUPPORTS CALL FOR UN CONFERENCE ON MIDDLE EAST

JN1310287 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Feb 78 pp 1, 10 JN

[Editorial]

[Text] The conflict between Washington and Tel Aviv over the legitimacy or illegitimacy of the Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territories has been renewed. It seems that the Zionist information media have opened fire on the U.S. secretary of state under the pretext that at his press conference last Friday he raised objections not mentioned by President Carter to Menahem Begin during their recent meeting in the U.S. capital.

Although Vance has not stepped out of the framework of the policy laid down by President Carter on the Middle East, the Zionist information media are trying to bring him down, as they did William Rogers before him as a way of eliminating President Nixon and making it appear as if Carter, who lost his friend Burt Lance, will not easily sacrifice his secretary of state, Vance.

While the argument between Washington and Tel Aviv flared up over the settlement issue, a joint statement was issued in Cairo and Bucharest yesterday in which Egypt recognized, for the first time, the convening of the conference called by the United Nations in case of a failure to resume the Cairo preparatory conference with the participation of all concerned parties.

This substitute, proposed by Presidents as-Sadat and Ceausescu, is a clear indication of Egypt's possible retreat from continuing the individual and direct negotiations with Israel after all efforts exerted to bring a radical change in the intransigent Israeli position have failed.

We believe that all the parties concerned in the region's conflict will not attend the Cairo preparatory conference, if it resumes, for reasons known by everyone.

Thus, the proposed substitute forms the only clear and sound way out of the deadlock reached in the bilateral negotiations, and a radical solution to the problems which occurred in the Arab arena in the wake of the Egyptian initiative.

It would be better if international efforts were exerted to call anew for the convening of a conference including the concerned parties, at UN headquarters, to remove the shadow of disaster threatening the area and what lies beyond it.

Despite the conviction of the Arab citizen that Israel will not change its position at the New York conf nce, the participation of all parties in shouldering responsibility for success or failure is better than the prevailing situation.

UN RESOLUTIONS SEEN BASIS FOR JORDANIAN ROLE IN TALKS

JN140736Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 14 Feb 78 p 1 JN

[Editorial]

[Text] The admission by some people that Jordan is a major and central party in the Middle East crisis and the confrontation with Israel, particularly at this stage, comes at a time when the Arabs are extremely weak and divided from the ocean to the gulf.

Jordan has been and will continue to be a major central party in the crisis and the confrontation with Israel, despite the belated admission by some people.

As for involving Jordan in the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations, which have reached a deadlock, we say that Jordan's participation in these negotiations will not mean much so long as Israel's declared position remains unchanged and the Begin government does not agree to withdrawl from the occupied Arab territories.

His Majesty King Husayn has, on many occasions in the past, clarified the position of this steadfast Arab country and its policy line concerning everything related to the events taking place in the region. Therefore, there is no longer any room for maneuvering to involve Jordan as a substitute for the Palestinians to play a certain role, when the Arabs have already decided at the Rabat summit conference who should play this role, despite Jordan's reservations.

Nevertheless, Jordan has continued and will continue to be a major and central party in the Arab-Israeli dispute. It is wrong to assume that Jordan will one day pursue the line of compromising on or trading with the Palestine question--land and people.

The return to the UN resolutions, Arab unanimity on pursuing the peace process on the basis of these resolutions, and Israel's acceptance of those bases constitute an acceptable general framework for any activities in which Jordan can play a role.

CABINET HOLDS SESSION, SARKIS MAKES STATEMENT

NC131250Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1205 GMT 13 Feb 78 NC

[Text] The cabinet's extraordinary session ended at about 1345 today. The cabinet's secretary general, Dr 'Umar Nusayki, made the following official statement:

His Excellency President Ilyas Sarkis opened the cabinet session with remarks on the recent regrettable incidents, saying: It is truly regrettable that the incidents we have witnessed over the past few days should have taken place, particularly among brothers who are cooperating with complete seriousness and sincerity to overcome the consequences of the ordeal through which Lebanon has passed. It was necessary to tackle the emergency crisis at this delicate stage from the angle of the state's logic and position of responsibility and dictates. Just as we regret the death or wounding of any Lebanese, we also regret any casualty that befell the Syrian soldiers. This is especially true because we do not forget that, in addition to the brotherly ties that link us with them, they came to Lebanon at our request and put themselves at our disposal. To this end they have endured hardships exceeding normal army duties.

President Sarkis added: Our concern for the morale of the Arab security forces in Lebanon is no less than our concern for the morale of our army and our concern to see it regain full health and vigor as soon as possible. On the basis of these considerations and thanks to the brotherly Lebanese-Syrian cooperation and to the wisdom and feeling of responsibility of all concerned, the necessary measures have been taken to resolve this temporary crisis in a brotherly atmosphere and in a manner that would define the responsibilities objectively and without bias and would insure justice and dignity for all. Needless to say, normal life will return sooner and more fully if everyone cooperates to this end. Let us rise to the level of responsibility and work with all seriousness, because this is the basis of all success. We ask God to guide and support us for the good of Lebanon and the good of all those who lend sincere assistance to Lebanon.

His Excellency President Sarkis concluded his remarks by expressing fraternal best wishes to President Hafiz al-Asad at the start of his new presidential term and expressing the feelings of all Lebanon and its thanks for the generous brotherly assistance provided during its ordeal.

The cabinet then discussed and approved an urgent bill for the establishment of a special joint security court.

TEXT OF BILL FORMING SPECIAL SECURITY COURT

NC140849Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 14 Feb 78 NC

[Text] The cabinet has issued the bill forming the special security court. The bill consists of 1 article and 10 clauses. The following is the text of the bill:

A special security court will be formed temporarily to consider crimes against the interest and safety of the Arab peace-keeping forces in Lebanon. It will consider all felonies and crimes against members of the Arab peace-keeping forces in Lebanon as well as felonies and crimes which these members commit. It will also directly consider all crimes committed during its sitting in the court hall or in the court's precincts.

The court will not consider civilian compensations. The jurisdiction of the special security court will cover all Lebanese territory. It will be headquartered in Beirut, but it can hold sessions outside Beirut whenever necessary.

The public prosecutor at the court of cassation will delegate the judges who will carry out the duties of public prosecution at the special security court. The duties of the examining magistrate at the court will be performed by an investigation panel which will carry out its duties in accordance with military judicial law. Its various decisions are not subject to appeal. Following the completion of the investigation, the panel will issue a bill of indictment or a decision dismissing the case. In the first case, the panel will submit the dossier to the special security court.

The special security court will hold continuous sessions and will apply the regulations followed by the permanent military court and the other Lebanese laws which do not conflict with the provisions of this law. The court will issue its rulings in the name of the Lebanese people and with a majority or unanimous vote. These rulings are not subject to appeal. The only exception is an objection to the sentences issued in absentia. The sentences will be carried out immediately.

The investigation panel will consist of a president and four members as follows: three officers from the Lebanese Army and two officers from the Arab peace-keeping forces. The president of the panel will be an officer of the Arab peace-keeping forces.

The court will consist of a president and four members in the following manner: a Lebanese judge and a Lebanese officer and three officers from the Arab peace-keeping forces. The court president will be a Lebanese officer. The Lebanese members of the investigation panel and the court will be appointed. The task of the investigation panel members will be terminated on the basis of a decree issued upon the recommendation of the national defense minister. The task of the court members will be terminated on the basis of a decree issued upon the recommendation of the justice and national defense ministers and after soliciting the opinion of the army commander regarding the Lebanese military personnel. The other members will be appointed and their task will be terminated on the basis of a decision by the head of state in accordance with the powers vested in him regarding the Arab peace-keeping forces. His decision will be based on the resolutions of the tripartite Arab summit conference in Riyadh of 18 October 1976 and of the Arab summit conference in Cairo of 6 October 1976. The presidents of the investigation panel and the court will be appointed by the appropriate quarter.

The provisions related to the ranks will be taken into consideration in the appointment of military personnel to the investigation panel and the court. The duties of the registrar at the investigation panel and the court will be carried out by judicial assistants who will be appointed on the basis of a decision by the justice minister.

The duties of the special security court can be terminated on the basis of a decree issued by the cabinet upon the suggestion of the ministers of justice and national defense.

This law shall come into force immediately on its publication by posting it at the entrance to the prime minister's office.

PRESIDENT SARKIS EXPECTED TO VISIT SYRIA THIS MONTH

JN141040Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0933 GMT 14 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 14 February--Press reports published here today expect Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis to pay a visit to the Syrian capital before the end of this month. The reports pointed out that the Lebanese president will discuss with the president of the Syrian regime the security situation in Lebanon and the development of the situation in southern Lebanon.

AL-BAYRAQ: BUTRUS GIVES STATEMENTS ON ARMY, SECURITY

JN131539Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Beirut--Fu'ad Butrus, Lebanese minister of foreign affairs and defense, has announced that what was agreed upon during the visit by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Maj Gen Naji Jamil, commander of the air force and air defense, stemmed from the necessity of insuring security and Lebanon's basic interests, particularly because at this stage Lebanese security is tied to the presence of Syrian forces. In a statement to the Lebanese AL-BAYRAQ, Butrus said that what is required now is the establishment of a balance among the requisites of security, the supreme national interests, Syria's friendship and continued close cooperation with it, and the necessity of building a strong army.

Denies Army Commander Resigned

NC131030Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 13 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 13 February--Lebanese Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus has denied that Army Commander Staff Brig Gen Victor Khuri has submitted his resignation. In a statement published today in the Lebanese AL-BAYRAQ, Butrus said that the army commander is confident of the soundness of the measures which he has taken. AL-BAYRAQ also published a statement by Brig Gen Victor Khuri. He said that the idea of resignation had not occurred to him and that he is upholding legality under the leadership of President Ilyas Sarkis. He also affirmed that confidence in legality is the basis of Lebanon's survival and of the army's continued existence.

DETERRENT FORCES ISSUE COMMUNIQUE ON INCIDENTS

NC101904Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 Feb 78 NC

[Text] The Arab deterrent forces command has issued the following communique:

The Arab deterrent forces command bitterly regrets that some foolish and misled persons have compelled it to use the arms which it brought to defend this homeland and consolidate its security. After what has happened, the command wants to make clear to citizens the following:

1. The Al-Fayyadiyah barracks incident, despite its aftermath and the victims that fell from both sides, will remain confined within its military framework to determine those who were really responsible for the incident, in coordination and cooperation with the Lebanese Army command, since the two sides are under the jurisdiction of the same legality, which is Lebanese legality.

2. Regarding the incidents which were fabricated by criminal persons outside the area of Al-Fayyadiyah by attacking some Arab deterrent forces which were carrying out their duty in the suburbs and on the roads--incidents which were condemned and opposed in words and deeds by the Lebanese front leadership--the Arab deterrent forces were compelled to answer the perpetrators violently so as to insure the safety of the Arab deterrent forces and to deter the perpetrators from repeating such incidents. This undoubtedly has caused the fall of innocent civilians. The responsibility for these victims rests on those who are trampling on the country's security and stability.

3. Believing in its sacred mission of preserving security in the country, the Arab deterrent forces are determined--in cooperation and coordination with all sides that are concerned about Lebanon's safety and stability--to confront with all means anyone who obstructs the march of peace in the country.

4. All citizens are called upon to assist the Arab deterrent forces by preventing gunmen from using their buildings for shooting at these forces or at others. In case they cannot do so, they must report such incidents by any possible means.

5. A joint higher command of the Lebanese Army and the Syrian forces operating in the Arab deterrent forces has been formed to start a full investigation to determine those responsible for the incidents, in preparation for taking the appropriate disciplinary measures.

REPORTS ON FIGHTING IN, NEAR BEIRUT, SOUTH

Voice of Lebanon

NC140712Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 14 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Intermittent shooting was heard last night in the area of 'Ayn ar-Rummanah. The shooting soon died down and there were no casualties. The situation was completely quiet in the other areas.

Baghdad Voice of the Masses

JN140845Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 14 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Reports from Beirut state that heavy shooting occurred in the 'Ayn ar-Rummanah quarter, southeast of the Lebanese capital, after midnight last night. Last week this quarter was the scene of fighting between the forces of the Syrian regime and the forces of the rightist front.

On the situation in southern Lebanon, reports state that the fighting spread between the joint forces of the nationalist movement and the Palestinian resistance on one side and the rightist forces supported by the Zionist enemy on the other. The PLO has issued a statement warning of a Zionist-rightist conspiracy aimed at sparking off the civil war in Lebanon once again.

Baghdad INA

JN141104Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1022 GMT 14 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 14 February--The atmosphere in the eastern quarter of Beirut today is obviously tense and explosive. Traffic has come to a complete standstill; stores, markets, schools and institutes are closed and large numbers of armed rightists have been observed taking fighting positions.

The INA correspondent here says that the Beirut-Damascus road which passes through Al-Fayyadiyah is still closed and traffic has been diverted to secondary roads. President Ilyas Sarkis this morning summoned National Liberal Party leader Camille Sham'un and Phalangist Party leader Pierre al-Jumayyil to the presidential palace to discuss the deteriorating security situation. The papers of the two parties today criticized the Lebanese-Syrian agreement on the formation of a mixed security court to consider cases related to the clashes. The papers described the agreement as a violation of Lebanese sovereignty. In south Lebanon, the exchange of fire between the rightist and the nationalist forces continued on most fronts throughout last night and this morning. Security reports say that fierce battles in which all types of weapons are being used have continued during the past 24 hours in the eastern sector and the Al-Khiyam-Marj 'Uyun front. These reports point out that other fronts were the scene of sporadic shooting, especially in the western and central sectors. The INA correspondent in the south says that flares were fired last night over the border strip, An-Nabatiyah and other areas. The correspondent says that these flares were seen clearly from the rooftops in the coastal town of Sidon, 35 km south of Beirut.

SYRIANS REPORTEDLY SEIZE TELECOMMUNICATIONS STATION

NC1407502 Doha QNA in Arabic 0732 GMT 14 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 14 February--The Arab deterrent forces in Lebanon have discovered an advanced telecommunications station belonging to the Guards of the Cedars, which is headed by Etienne Saqr, whose nom de guerre is Abu Arz. Citing reliable sources, the Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM says today that this secret station was used to communicate directly with Israel. The Syrian forces in Lebanon searched for this station for several days until they were able to locate it and arrest those operating it. A secret investigation of those arrested began immediately.

DETERRENT FORCES DENY KIDNAPING, ISSUE ASSURANCES

NC1411412 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 14 Feb 78 NC

[Text] The Arab deterrent forces command has issued the following communique:

A private radio station reported today that there had been a kidnaping in front of the Beirut Water Company in Sami as-Sul Street. The report was followed by exaggerated rumors concerning the incident. A wave of anxiety swept through the citizens. Some linked the incident with withdrawals by the Arab deterrent forces from some of their positions. The Arab deterrent forces command assures the citizens of the following:

1. No kidnaping has taken place in Beirut or its suburbs. All rumors about the Beirut Water Company incident concerned only a personal dispute, which has been settled.

2. There has been no withdrawal of the Arab deterrent forces from any area. What actually happened is that some roadblocks in certain positions inside the city have been moved to enable the Arab deterrent forces to move more easily, intervene more quickly and carry out their tasks more efficiently.

3. Patrols will be deployed this afternoon to prevent any exploitation of this change and any armed presence other than their own forces.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES PALESTINE CENTRAL COUNCIL DELEGATION

JN131541Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1445 GMT 13 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 13 February--At 1500 today Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad received a delegation of the Palestine Central Council and the PLO Executive Committee led by Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee Yasir 'Arafat and Chairman of the Palestine National Council Khalid al-Fahum. The delegation came to congratulate President al-Asad on the renewal of faith in him, represented by his reelection as president of the Syrian Arab Republic.

The delegation expressed the appreciation of the Palestinian people of Syrian support for their cause under the leadership of President al-Asad. The discussions also touched on the continued efforts to strengthen the front of steadfastness and confrontation and the steps taken in this field.

FOREIGN LEADERS SEND CONGRATULATIONS TO AL-ASAD

Cable From Tito

JN132015Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 13 Feb 78 JN

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received the following cable of congratulations from Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito.

Your Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, Damascus: On the occasion of your reelection as president of the Syrian Arab Republic, I wish you, dear friend, most sincere congratulations and success in carrying out this noble and responsible task. I am confident that under your leadership, the friendly Syrian people will make further important progress in their struggle for the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, building the homeland and achieving social development.

It gives me special pleasure to grasp this opportunity to praise your sound contribution to the consolidation of the friendly relations existing between our two nonalined countries. It also gives me pleasure to express my deep conviction that these relations will continue to develop for the good of the Yugoslav and Syrian peoples and for the sake of international peace and cooperation.

Vietnamese President's Cable

JN131749Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 13 Feb 78 JN

[Excerpt] Damascus--His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has received the following congratulatory cable from President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Ton Duc Thang:

His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic--Damascus: On the occasion of your reelection to your high post as president of the Syrian Arab Republic, I would like to convey to Your Excellency my warm congratulations, on behalf of the government and people of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and in my own name. I hope that under the leadership of Your Excellency, the Syrian people will score new victories in their struggle against imperialism and the Zionist Israeli aggressors for the defense of the independence of the homeland, sovereignty and territorial integrity and for building a prosperous Syria.

I take this opportunity to reaffirm the Vietnamese people's support of the Arab people and the Palestinian people and the progressive Arab front in their just struggle for the sake of the basic national rights of the Arab and the Palestinian people and for the sake of a just and durable peace in the Middle East. I would like also to convey to you my best wishes for your good health and for the people of the Syrian Arab Republic prosperity and happiness.

KHULAYFAWI RECEIVES ROMANIAN DEPUTY PREMIER

JN1311543Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1438 GMT 13 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 13 February--At 1400 today Prime Minister Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi received Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Emil Draganescu and the delegation accompanying him on his visit to Syria. Attending the meeting were Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Jamil Shayya and the Romanian ambassador in Damascus. During the meeting they discussed the mission of the delegation to Syria, relations between the two friendly countries and means of developing them.

DAMASCUS COMMENTS ON ALGIERS STEADFASTNESS CONFERENCE

JN0620592 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Feb 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] With the conclusion of the work of the second steadfastness and confrontation conference in Algiers, the front of steadfastness and confrontation has moved from its general theoretical framework as drawn up by the Tripoli conference to a stage of action, namely, a stage of starting to translate the ideas and concepts into real practices expressed in actual terms.

What the political statement of Algiers summit conference contains indicates that the steadfastness and confrontation front has achieved positive steps on the path of action and work with the aim of foiling the dreadful plot which is being enacted by Israel and President as-Sadat. It also indicates what has been done to defeat the visit of Egypt's ruler to the occupied territories and the subsequent meetings between As-Sadat's regime and the leaders of the Zionist-racist entity.

What has been achieved at the Algiers summit conference is a natural result of the will of steadfastness which was represented by the front's countries. Thus the front will continue its political course so as to attain the political aims for which it was established. These aims are the confrontation of all attempts and plots aimed at striking against the Arabs and at liquidating their rights, and the prevention of the return of world imperialism and Zionism to the Arab homeland.

At the second summit conference of steadfastness and confrontation, the Arab leaders decided to secure military and economic support for Syria and the PLO with the aim of enhancing the solid stands of struggle and fulfilling the requirements of the coming stage. It was also decided to begin making intensified moves on the Arab and international levels to rally support for the steadfastness and confrontation front and to prevent the success of As-Sadat's attempts which are aimed at covering his capitulatory course and justifying his connection with imperialism and the colonialist forces hostile to Arabs.

It is no secret to anyone if we say that the important results achieved by the second conference of the steadfastness and confrontation front were made possible by the great efforts of the heads of the front's states, headed by President Hafiz al-Asad, during the time following first conference in Tripoli. This means that the events which have taken place prove the correctness of the first steadfastness conference's analysis of As-Sadat's visit to Arab Jerusalem as well as of his intentions and ideas.

From this starting point it can be said that the front of steadfastness and confrontation will continue its move and work on all levels. It will also continue, as President Hafiz al-Asad has said, to resist any defeatist line which tries to take control of the region we are living in. It will struggle obstinately, without hesitation and with all determination, to restore our usurped rights. As long as the will of steadfastness and confrontation is capable of freezing the activity of the Israeli-Egyptian-American axis and suspending its activity temporarily, this will is undoubtedly capable of overthrowing the capitulatory course which As-Sadat has begun and confronting any imperialist plans aimed at disrupting the nation's unity, aborting Arab solidarity and placing it at the disposal of the enemies of the Arabs and the colluding defeatists.

The existence of the steadfastness and confrontation front will depend on its ability to continue with the support of the masses and on what it can achieve during the coming stage.

TISHRIN WARNS AGAINST ANTI-SYRIAN ACTIVITIES IN LEBANON

JN131015Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 0818 GMT 13 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 13 February--Commenting in its "Behind the Events" column, the newspaper TISHRIN affirms that like all devout Lebanese, Syria is concerned about peace and security in Lebanon. It says Syria will continue to cooperate with President Ilyas Sarkis and all devout Lebanese for the sake of peace and security in Lebanon and for the real interests of the two countries and the national interests of the Arab nation.

The paper also affirms that any hostile activity in Lebanon to defend the capitulation of the As-Sadat regime or to pave the way for implementation of an imperialist-Zionist conspiracy in the Arab homeland will be met with the necessary severity by the Lebanese, the Syrians and every Arab devoted to his nation and cause. Syria will not allow anyone to lay a trap for its forces, which are working for Lebanon's peace, security and unity as well as the prosperity of its people. It must be clear that any plot by any quarter to turn Lebanon into a trap for steadfast Syria will fail miserably, that is, if it ever sees the light. Lebanon will not be the base or venue for the enemies of Lebanon, Syria and the Arab nation.

TISHRIN affirms that Syria will continue to cooperate with its Lebanese brothers to entrench peace, security and legitimacy, bring about national accord in Lebanon and give every essential assistance to our Lebanese brothers in their efforts to rebuild their institutions, strengthen their national unity and return Lebanon to its place in the Arab ranks.

LIBYA

JALLUD RECEIVES PDRY INTERIOR MINISTER

LD131530Y Tripoli JANA in English 1415 GMT 13 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 13 February, JANA--Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud here today received the South Yemeni interior minister, Salih Muslih, currently visiting the Jamahiriyah.

The ambassador of South Yemen was also present at the meeting.

Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab armed forces also received the Yemeni minister yesterday.

LIBYA, SUDAN REPORTED MEDIATING IN CHAD CONFLICT

LD131603Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 13 February--Jana has learned that the Jamahiriyah on the one hand and Sudan on the other hand are making efforts and contacts with the Chad Government to bring about a national reconciliation in Chad and put an end to the fratricide in Chad.

JANA EDITOR SCORES EGYPT FOR OFFERING AID TO CHAD

LD132205Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 1915 GMT 13 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpts] The Egyptian president said that he intends to continue to supply Chad with military weapons and aid. At his press conference in Paris he said that he had received a message from the president of Chad containing a request for aid. The Egyptian president added: We have helped him in the past and supplied him with arms and military aid. We shall continue to do the same in the future.

Commenting on this, the political editor of JANA says: Once again the ruler of Egypt is engaging in new political acrobatics to be added to his previous tragicomic acts. After the farce of dispatching his military force to fight in Zaire last year, the ruler of Egypt now comes out with a statement in which he stresses that he will give military aid to the regime in Chad. What is surprising in those absurd acrobatics is that the Egyptian president is undertaking all this at a time when the Zionist enemy forces are occupying the whole of Sinai and impose humiliating conditions on him every day.

The title of an honorary Zionist which was conferred on this ruler of humiliation following his visit to occupied Jerusalem, the title of the policeman of the United States in Africa which was bestowed on him after his recent visit to Washington and his official statement that the arms he sought from the United States would not be used against the Zionist enemy who occupies his land but in tasks inside Africa, all this is clear and unambiguous proof that As-Sadat has finally gone to the side of the camp which is hostile to the Arab nation and its destiny.

FRG RADIO CLAIM OF LIBYAN TROOPS IN CHAD DENIED

LD132024Y Tripoli JANA in English 1820 GMT 13 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, February 13, JANA--In reply to allegations put out by the "voice of W. Germany 'Deutschewelle'" concerning the involvement of Jamahiriyah troops in the fighting in Chad, JANA's Africa correspondent said:

"We doubt whether the voice of West Germany and other Western media are unaware of what is really happening in Chad. It is clear that no Jamahiriyah troops are involved in any fighting along any of the Jamahiriyah frontiers.

"These stations are well aware that the fighting in Chad has been going on for 20 years, well before the Fatah revolution."

JANA correspondent wondered for whose benefit these false allegations are spread.

"We still hope," he said, "the W. German station will be faithful to the ideals of journalism, viz, that of accurate reporting, and will try to correct their report regarding Chad, notably that the fighting in Chad is an internal matter and that the Jamahiriyah is not involved in any way."

AT-TURAYKI DISCUSSES CHAD SITUATION WITH FRENCH ENVOY

LD101428Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, foreign secretary, this morning received at his office the French ambassador to the Jamahiriyah. They discussed relations between the two countries and the means of strengthening them.

JANA has learned that the foreign secretary discussed with the French ambassador the joint efforts being exerted by the Jamahiriyah and France to assist the Chad Government in solving its internal problems. The agency also has learned that the joint Libyan-French cooperation committee is to hold its meetings during the coming weeks.

JANA REPORTS AT-TURAYKI MEETS WITH FOREIGN ENVOYS

LD122138Y Tripoli JANA in English 1830 GMT 12 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, February 11, JANA--Dr 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, the foreign secretary of the Jamahiriyah, today received the credentials of the new ambassadors of Greece, Zaire, Tunisia and Sweden.

In official ceremonies on the occasion the foreign secretary and the new ambassadors exchanged speeches highlighting the relations between their respective countries.

The Greek ambassador, Immanuel Mimkanou, lauded the policies of the Jamahiriyah under the leadership of the First of September Revolution and affirmed the historical and friendly ties between the people of the two countries.

Dr at-Turayki in his reply, said the historical ties between Greece and Jamahiriyah were a strong factor in consolidating relations in the past and will continue to be so in the future.

Dr at-Turayki pointed out that both the countries were in the Mediterranean region and their common objective was to make the sea a lake of peace and protect it from foreign presence.

He said the Jamahiriyah followed with great interest the progress achieved by Greece on the road to democracy and friendship with the Arab people.

The foreign secretary expressed his regards for the government and the people of Greece, especially Prime Minister Karamanlis, and hoped that the relations between the two countries will strengthen with time.

In his address on the occasion the new Zairian ambassador said the achievements realised by the Jamahiriyah are a positive proof of the progressive path it has adopted for its development.

He expressed the hope that the relations between the two African countries would strengthen in future.

Replying to his speech, Dr at-Turayki said fraternal relations bind the Jamahiriyah and Zaire and hoped that the two countries will continue to back liberation movements in Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

He assured the ambassador of all assistance and help and conveyed the greetings of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi for President Mobutu and the Zairian people.

The new ambassador of Sweden, Binjet Holkosht, praised the struggle of the Libyan people for liberation on the economical and ideological fronts and said the Swedish people admired the great leaps of the Libyan people under the First of September Revolution.

"Not only have deserts become green fields but the country has taken giant strides in the fields of education and health as well," the new ambassador said.

Dr at-Turayki in his reply said the two countries had strengthened their ties which are to develop further and said the Jamahiriyah views with satisfaction the socialist experiment of Sweden and its aid to the liberation movements in the Third World.

He expressed thanks to the Swedish Government on behalf of the coordination committee for African liberation which is to begin its meetings here on Monday.

Dr at-Turayki hoped that Swedish aid will also reach the Palestine Liberation Organisation which is fighting a liberation battle.

He conveyed the greetings of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi for the king, the government and the people of Sweden.

MOROCCO

FOREIGN SECRETARY LEAVES FOR OAU COMMITTEE MEETING

LD121842Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpt] Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Abderrahmane Baddou left An-Nawasir International Airport today at the head of an important delegation to attend the ordinary meeting of the OAU Liberation Committee. He made a statement to our radio correspondent about the meeting: [begin recording]

With God's help, I am proceeding to Tripoli at the head of an important delegation to attend the meetings of the OAU Liberation Committee. The Council of Ministers will meet following the committee's meetings. The council's meetings will continue until the end of this month. [end recording]

SOVIET FISHERIES MINISTER LEAVES; AGREEMENT SIGNED

LD121834Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpts] This morning Soviet minister of the Fish Industry Aleksandr Akimovich Ishkov left Rabat for Moscow at the end of a visit to Morocco, which culminated in the signing of a draft Moroccan-Soviet fisheries agreement.

At Sale airport, the Soviet minister made a statement. He said that during his stay in Morocco he had held important talks with Moroccan officials. He added: We met with understanding on the part of the Moroccan officials with whom we talked. During the talks, we found an identity of views on the promotion of relations between both our countries. We are convinced that this cooperation, connected with the development of fisheries in the Kingdom of Morocco will consider Soviet experience in this field. This cooperation will permit our two countries to raise the standard of Moroccan fishing technology through the creation of conditions which would enable Soviet and Moroccan fishermen to be convinced of the usefulness of such cooperation.

The Soviet minister added that he is happy with the draft agreement which he signed this morning.

In conclusion, he thanked His Majesty King Hassan II for inviting him to visit Morocco. He said these results prove that the road we are following is straight.

Earlier the Soviet minister of fisheries and Moroccan Minister of Commerce and Industry Raghaye signed a draft agreement on maritime fishing at the premises of the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

The draft agreement provides for setting up joint companies for high seas fishing to exploit fish resources outside the traditional fishing areas. The draft agreement, which will be submitted to the government, provides for the opening of Soviet markets for Moroccan exports of surplus preserved fish. It will also provide for help in the formation of Moroccan maritime cadres and the operation of fishing processing and exporting plants, which now operate at only 30 percent of capacity.

During the signing ceremony, the Soviet minister expressed his country's readiness to send scientific research vessels to assess Moroccan fish resources next March.

In a statement to our radio correspondent, the minister of commerce and industry spoke about the agreement and its scope. He said:

[Raghaye--begin recording] The talks were held in an atmosphere of friendship and unity. We have reached an agreement, or rather a draft agreement, on cooperation in sea fishing between the Kingdom of Morocco and the USSR. We can now state that this draft agreement has definite and varied distinguishing characteristics. First, it will be within the framework of complete respect for Moroccan fishing areas. The agreement will also safeguard the traditional Moroccan fishing sector and the Moroccan [word indistinct] fishing sector. Thus it will be possible to exploit the country's sea wealth in a balanced manner without harming existing Moroccan economic interests and energies in this field.

The draft agreement falls within the framework of the general cooperation policy in fishing laid down by the Moroccan state since the discovery of the richness of the fishing sector and since Morocco found out that this sector can be exploited in cooperation with countries with experience in this field. This can be done in a manner which benefits not only Morocco but also the human race as a whole, particularly insofar as the problem of nutrition in the developed and underdeveloped countries imposes itself and calls for speedy solutions.

For this reason, it was agreed that cooperation will be within the framework of mixed companies in which Moroccan and Soviet capital will participate. But the vessels will all be Moroccan and will fly the Moroccan flag. The fish they catch will also be Moroccan, from which the Moroccan economy and Moroccan processing plants will benefit. Should there be a surplus--and there will, God willing, be a surplus--then it will be exported. The Moroccan economy and the Moroccan balance of payments will benefit from the hard currency that will come from these exports.

We have seized upon this opportunity and agreed with our Soviet friends that Moroccan seamen and Moroccan technicians in the field of sea fishing will benefit from the experience, skill and knowhow of our Soviet friends and from the holding of training course not only in the Soviet plants and workshops but also on board Soviet vessels. We all know that these vessels are modern and are equipped with the most modern means, not only for fishing but also for [word indistinct].

We have agreed with our Soviet friends to cooperate in assessing our resources. All of us know that these resources are important. But they have to be precisely assessed so that they can be exploited in a balanced manner and so that this exploitation will not harm our assets and the fish wealth off our shores, which would be the case if this exploitation were carried out haphazardly.

The draft agreement will be submitted to the government of his majesty the king before it is signed by both sides. We will come back to this important subject then, because a statement at the airport is not sufficient to deal with it fully.

Later the public in Morocco and abroad will be enlightened in detail about the contents of the agreement and its highlights and its philosophy as well! Thank you. [end recording]

RABAT SCORES ALGERIA'S 'AGGRESSIVE POLICY' IN MAGHREB

LD032322Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Feb 78 LD

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Algerian regime continues the policy of divide and rule which we used to know in the extinct era of colonialism. On one hand, the Algerian rulers headed by Boumediene, are making tremendous efforts to divide the ranks of the Arab nation under the guise of the conference of the rejection front when the sole aim these rulers are trying to achieve is to break the isolation imposed on them as a result of their expansionist policy in the Arab Maghreb area. They have shown disregard toward finding a permanent and just solution--a solution that can bring peace to the Arab east by the liberation of the occupied Arab territory and the recongition of the right of the Palestinian people to return and to decide their own future in their homeland.

Only recently the Algerian rulers championed the idea of holding direct contact between the Palestinians and the Israelis to find a solution to the Palestinian issue. What made them change their attitude so quickly? Time has shown that the efforts of the Algerian rulers under the guise of what they call rejection and steadfastness are in fact efforts to serve and strengthen their aggressive policy in the Arab Maghreb area.

They have announced in Algiers that the PDRY Government has recongized the so-called ED government which had been set up by the Algerian regime in Tindouf for terror and aggression and expansion at the expense of the peaceful neighbors.

On the other hand, we see the Algerian rulers continue the divisive policy which now has become their slogan, by exploiting the visit of the secretary general of the Spanish Socialist Workers Party, Felipe Conzalez, to the Algerian capital. They have been trying to cause a rift between the leaders of this party and the Spanish Government by pretending to reverse their plan which supports the secession of the Canary Islands from Spain. One must bear in mind that the Algerian Government did not bother to reply to the note of protest from the Madrid government.

The truth of the matter is that these overt acrobatic maneuvers by the Algerian rulers only seek to spoil the strong cordial relations between Morocco and Spain. These rulers, however, forget that these relations could not be spoiled by maneuvers and intrigues because they are based on firm foundations of understanding, cooperation and mutual respect and because they derive their strength from history, geography and goodneighborliness and interlinked interests.

We do not need to say that silencing the voice of [word indistinct] from Algiers radio is no more than an obvious trick and the Spaniards will not be duped by it whatever their political affiliations. This is because the Algerian rulers in actual fact continue the training of terrorist gangs of mercenaries to push them into embarking on an armed movement inside the Spanish archipelago in the framework of a suspect operation that does not serve security or peace or the goodneighborliness in the area.

PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION VISITS MAURITANIA

LD091458Y Rabat MAP in French 1100 GMT 9 Feb 78 LD

[Summary] Rabat--A Moroccan parliamentary delegation led by Abdelhamid Kacimi, chairman of the committee on foreign affairs, cooperation, borders, occupied zones and national defense, is paying an official visit to Mauritania at the invitation of the Mauritanian National Assembly from Wednesday. It is the first time that Moroccan parliamentarians have paid an official visit to Mauritania.

SUDAN

MINISTERIAL DELEGATION DEPARTS FOR ETHIOPIA

LD081320Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Text] A delegation consisting of Ibrahim Muhammad Ali, ambassador at the Foreign Ministry and rapporteur of the ministerial committee preparing for the forthcoming Khartoum African summit, and (Abragun Taha Ayyub) and (Ahmad Muhammad Ziyad), ambassadors at the Foreign Ministry, left Khartoum this morning for Addis Ababa. The SUDAN NEWS AGENCY reports that the delegation will hold talks with OAU officials on arrangement [words indistinct] for holding the African summit next July and drawing up a draft agreement on all questions concerning that [words indistinct]. The visit will last 4 days.

CHAD OPPOSITION LEADER PRAISES SUDAN'S EFFORTS

NC121935Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1923 GMT 12 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Khartoum, 12 February--'Abdallah Adam Dafa', Leader of an opposition front in Chad, has praised Sudan's efforts for achieving national unity in Chad.

In a statement he made to SUNA and broadcast over Omdurman Radio, 'Abdallah Adam appealed to the Sudanese Government to continue its efforts for peace in Chad and for persuading all opposition parties to hold peace negotiations.

TUNISIA

PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA REPORTED 'IN GOOD HEALTH'

LD102350Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 10 Feb 78 LD

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba is in good health and is closely following the activities of the party and the government. This was stated by Mohamed Sayah, party director and minister delegate attached to the prime minister, during a speech Friday evening to the Destourian Party branches in the Tunisian capital meeting at the party headquarters.

He spoke of the painful events in the country last January and stated that investigations have shown that they were part of a sinister plan to harm the country's stability and overthrow the regime. Tunisia's independence was threatened at the time.

PRIME MINISTER INTERVIEWED BY FRENCH PAPER

LD090001Y Tunis TAP in French 1500 GMT 8 Feb 78 LD

[Summary] Tunis--The Tunisian prime minister has granted an interview to the French newspaper LA CROIX in which he discusses Tunisian development and the idea of political pluralism.

"What is valid for a developed country, a Western country, certainly cannot be and is not valid for a developing country. Does the launching the idea of political pluralism mean that we must copy Europe and have a multitude of parties at a moment when Europe itself is turning its back on political pluralism, Hedi Nouira wonders. No, but looking into the essence of it, what is a party if not a body which defends certain interests, Mr Nouira asks. Here lies modern pluralism: to have partners who each defend certain interests and who are accepted as such. That is what we have been doing for 8 years within a party where everyone (?defends) vigorously and efficiently [word indistinct] the interests of labor, of savings, investments or agriculture, and so forth.

The dialog between these elements takes place at various levels.

"Asked about the possibility of setting up new political groups, Nouira said: The law does not prevent anyone from standing for legislative elections." The election system in the country provides for this.

"Asked about the reasons for divergencies between a faction of the leadership and the Tunisian General Union of Labor, Hedi Nouira indicated that the existence of strikes in Tunisia was evidence of the fact that the Tunisian regime was not a dictatorial one."

Hedi Nouira also dealt with problems of Tunisian youth and the people's living standards.

BEGIN HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE ON U.S. RELATIONS

TA131233Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 13 Feb 78 TA

[Prime Minister Menahem Begin's press conference at the prime minister's office--live]

[Text] The press conference at the prime minister's office is going to start. We are going over to you, our political correspondent Shalom Qital.

[Qital--live] Yes, the prime minister has been polite enough to wait half a minute for us so that we could set up the live broadcast of this press conference. Mr Prime Minister, yesterday we heard the government statement from you. Has a reaction arrived from Washington in the meantime to these remarks which may be termed as harsh exchanged between Israel and the United States?

[Begin] No, for the time being we have not received any reaction. I would not call these things harsh. Such things have happened in the past. One should take into consideration the fact that the U.S. secretary of state made a certain statement that is hard for Israel. The government discussed Vance's announcement and decided on a reaction. The reaction is absolutely natural. This is how we view it.

[Question by unidentified correspondent] Sir, in light of the political remarks and declarations in the region, what are the chances of the peace moves in the region?

[Begin] I think that the moves will continue. We expect Mr Atherton's arrival in the Middle East. It is possible that he will begin his trip with a visit to Cairo and will then come to Jerusalem. We are faced with the problem of an agreement on a declaration of principles. There is a basis for the conduct of the negotiations today since there are peace drafts, Israeli and Egyptian drafts in addition to a U.S. draft. There is a basis for conducting the negotiations. As for some of the clauses in that declaration of principles, agreement has been reached on them. Now we should try to reach an agreement regarding the other clauses. This will be the content of the negotiations to be held in the coming weeks. We also expect the negotiations in both committees to resume. What should be clear is that if the deliberations in the framework of the Political Committee are renewed, there is only one place where this committee will sit--Jerusalem.

[Question by unidentified correspondent] Mr Begin, the news media compared the remarks of the U.S. secretary of state to the Rogers plan. It is even claimed that his remarks are graver than the Rogers plan. What is your position on the matter?

[Begin] I would not suggest treating this or that matter according to labels. We remember what was written in the Rogers plan. Let us talk of things as announced by the secretary of state a few days ago. His remarks, in both parts, are, from our point of view, very serious, painful. What have we done? We have reacted to them. The relations of friendship between Israel and the United States are very deep and one should not be impressed by this phenomenon, when we have to react to certain remarks that have been made in Washington. We have not hidden anything. Our reaction is right. Everything we said, every word in the cabinet's announcement, is true. Therefore, we should now see how things develop. I think that the deep friendship between us and the United States will continue and will not be impaired by this incident. There are differences of opinion between us and we explain and clarify them.

[Question by unidentified correspondent] Mr Begin, do you think that the United States, under the present circumstances, can be a mediator between Israel and Egypt after it has adopted such positions?

[Begin] The United States has now assumed a real duty: to take care that the declaration of principles will be agreed on by the parties. We welcome this initiative. The differences of opinion arising against the background of Mr Vance's statement do not cancel our positive treatment of Mr Atherton's arrival in the Middle East. On the contrary, he will be a welcome guest in Jerusalem whether he begins his Middle East visit in our capital or first goes to Cairo. From this point of view, no change has occurred. We support this process of the negotiations with the help of Mr Atherton in order to reach an agreed content of the declaration of principles.

[Question by unidentified correspondent] Mr Begin, we hear reports from Washington to the effect that the administration officials are apparently carrying on an information campaign to explain the U.S. position in Congress and also among U.S. Jewry. Are you concerned about the situation?

[Begin] We know that certain talks are going on. The U.S. Government can hold talks with whomever it wants. There were indeed meetings between the President and the vice president and Jewish delegations. Each explains his position. It is entirely natural in our eyes.

[Question by unidentified correspondent] The question arising is whether there were indeed discrepancies, as presented in certain circles in the United States, between the plan you presented to President Carter and that plan you presented to President as-Sadat?

[Begin] All this was brought [to Carter's attention]. I informed President Carter, during my visit at the White House that the plan as I presented it to him was subject to the government's approval. When I left for the United States, I was empowered to present our plan, both parts of the plan--regarding Sinai, on the one hand, and administrative autonomy for the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, on the other--according to the decision of the Ministerial Committee for Defense Affairs. It was natural, therefore, that I informed the U.S. President: I am bringing you the plan but it will be submitted to the government for approval. This is what happened. Certain clauses that did not appear in the original plan were indeed introduced in the cabinet meeting. However, in a comparative document we have already proved that the plan was not changed and that the clauses inserted according to the government's decision--a decision about which I had informed the U.S. President and his advisers in advance--came in fact after the remarks exchanged between the President and his advisers, on the one hand, and the Israeli delegation, on the other. The content of the plan--neither concerning Sinai, nor concerning the autonomy--has not been changed. As I have already said, certain changes were introduced according to the government's decision. They did not at all change the content of the two parts of our peace plan.

[Question by unidentified correspondent] Mr Begin, President as-Sadat invited the head of the opposition, Shim'on Peres, to visit Cairo. I assume that Mr Peres will ask for your permission. Will you let him make such a trip?

[Begin] Mr Peres asked for my agreement to his meeting with President as-Sadat while I was staying in Geneva. Mr Peres called me on the telephone and told me that he might be invited for a meeting by President as-Sadat.

He asked for my permission and I gave it without hesitation. After the meeting, Mr Peres telephoned me and gave me, on the telephone, a brief and thorough report about the course of the talk held between him and President as-Sadat. This was on the assumption that he would be in Israel today or tomorrow morning and would give me, personally, a full report about the talk held between Mr as-Sadat and Mr Peres in Salzburg.

[Unidentified correspondent interrupting] He was invited to Cairo by President as-Sadat....

[Begin] I am happy that he was invited. He does not need my agreement to go to Cairo. If he still calls and wants to know my opinion about such a visit, it will be entirely positive.

[Question by unidentified correspondent] Mr Begin, the Americans, in addition to the Egyptians, have reacted negatively to one extent or another to Israel's peace plan. Is Israel considering a retreat from or a change in some of the clauses of the plan?

[Begin] What you said is not correct. It is not only that the Americans have not reacted negatively to Israel's peace plan but, as I told you yesterday, we have received the moral support of the U.S. Government for both parts of our peace plan. I want to empnasize again: When I presented the plan to the U.S. President, I also discussed the problem of the Jewish settlements in the region between Rafah and Al-'Arish. There was no reservation about what I presented regarding this special problem. As for the general treatment, it was given a positive expression. I am not going to claim, we have not claimed that the President said: I agree to what you have said with regard to the settlements. I have claimed and continue to claim that I presented this problem clearly in the meeting with the U.S. administration. There was no reservation about the presentation of this matter by me. There was a positive reaction regarding the entire plan, this is without quoting remarks made in the talks in the cabinet room of the United States.

[Question by unidentified correspondent] Perhaps, in conclusion of the Hebrew part of the press conference, Mr Prime Minister, are you preparing, or, do you know of a meeting you are expected to have with President Carter, President as-Sadat, or both of them together?

[Begin] No, I do not know anything for the time being. Naturally, if the U.S. President invites me, I will accept the invitation with gratitude. We have not received any information, either about a forthcoming meeting between him and myself, or of a triangular meeting with the participation of President as-Sadat.

[Qital] The press conference will now be conducted in English and I am returning the broadcast to the studio.

Begin Replies in English

LD131456Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 13 Feb 78 LD

[Prime Minister Menahem Begin's press conference on 13 February, relayed from the prime minister's office--recorded]

[Text] And now up to date reaction from Prime Minister Menahem Begin, following the differences between Israel and the United States. Begin's remarks are being transmitted to us directly from the prime minister's office:

[Begin] The peacemaking process will continue. We expect the assistant secretary, Mr Atherton, soon in the Middle East. He may start his shuttle visits in Cairo, and come then from Cairo to Jerusalem. We were asked about this method, and we do not object that he should start his visit in Cairo. And then he will come to us. The problem he will be dealing with, together with us and the Egyptian delegations, is to bring about an agreement on a declaration of principles. As you know, the talks between the [word indistinct] in the Political Committee in Jerusalem were abruptly disrupted when we already, within the framework of that committee, made real progress. But several paragraphs are still outstanding and they were not yet agreed upon. Now the effort will be made in order to bring about an agreement of those paragraphs. So we will be very grateful, of course, and he will be a welcome guest to Jerusalem.

As far as the two committees are concerned, we hope that the talks within the framework of both will be renewed. We cannot say now for sure, because it depends on both sides, on Israel and on Egypt, to the same extent. However, it should be clear if the decision is taken to renew the talks within the framework of the Political Committee, the seat of this committee is Jerusalem.

[Question indistinct]

[Begin] Now if the secretary of state says that Jewish settlements should not exist, on this issue he took sides, of course, obviously. It does not change our attitude toward the efforts to be made by Mr Atherton. He is welcome to continue with his efforts. We shall do our best to help him in the fulfilment of his mission.

[Question indistinct]

[Begin] That question should be put to the Egyptians and not to us. We brought a peace plan, including the continuation of our settlements in the area between Rafah and Al-'Arish. As I told you yesterday I presented our peace plan in its two parts to the President of the United States and his advisers in the White House. I specifically referred to this possibility of the Jewish settlements to continue and, as a contingent, Israel to defend them. Now there was no reservation on that particular reference, and in total, in general, the reaction to our peace plan in both its parts was positive. This is the truth. And now there should be negotiations. What we suggest, all the time, is that there should be negotiations between the two countries, Egypt and Israel, about our peace plan. Those negotiations partly were disrupted by an order from Cairo. We wanted them to be renewed and to continue.

[Question indistinct about the settlement in Sinai being "legal, legitimate and essential"]

[Begin] They are legal, legitimate and essential and I can tell you that in the (?Ninth) Knesset there is only one party which would be prepared to dismantle the settlements. This is the Communist Party, and they probably have no more, if I'm not mistaken, than five members; 115, or at least 113, will not agree to dismantling our settlements. This is a parliamentary fact.

[Question indistinct about the settlements]

[Begin] These are words. What I say is that this is part of our peace plan and I always repeat it, my friends: Everything is negotiable except the destruction of Israel.

[Announcer] The prime minister was asked his opinion of the proposed supply of weapons to Egypt by United States or France.

[Begin] I said already what I think about it. We object to it because (?it could feed) the threat of war which we hear from time to time and read in the Egyptian press, and I agree with ourforeign minister, who (?yesterday) said that such a supply of offensive weapons will be thinkable only after Egypt concludes peace with Israel.

CABINET MAY RECONSIDER CLAUSES IN PEACE PROGRAM

TA130957Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Feb 78 p 1 TA

[By Dani'el Bloch]

[Text] There is a serious dispute between Israel and the United States in the wake of the announcement by Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. The sharp reaction by the Israeli Cabinet, both in the public announcement at the end of the cabinet session and in a talk between the prime minister and Ambassador Lewis on Saturday night, which was described as a difficult talk.

It appears that the basis of the dispute is a misunderstanding between the prime minister and the heads of the U.S. administration. While Begin interprets their reaction to his peace program as positive support of the program, the Americans are claiming only that they did not dismiss the program and saw in it a basis for negotiations, but never expressed support for the program in all its clauses. The U.S. Government has not changed its approach, expressed in the Rogers plan, that Israel must withdraw to the borders of 4 June 1967, apart from unimportant border changes. In the same way, U.S. administrations since the 6-day war have opposed Israeli settlement of the territories and even of east Jerusalem.

The Israeli Cabinet is now reacting to this approach very sharply because it regards it as direct intervention in the direct negotiations between Israel and Egypt. The cabinet fears that U.S. pressure will now be used to erode Israel's position. Thus, political observers in Jerusalem have expressed the view that in the case of U.S. pressure, the Israeli Cabinet may reconsider its peace program and go back on several of its clauses. This interpretation springs from the clause in the cabinet announcement which emphasizes that Israel brought the peace program to Egypt's knowledge only after the program, in both its parts, gained the moral support of the United States. U.S. sources reject this statement by the cabinet and confirm that the United States never expressed moral support for Israel's peace program in both its parts.

There was the feeling yesterday in Jerusalem of an atmosphere of confrontation with the United States over the open support of the Americans for President as-Sadat's positions on the issue of the borders and the settlements in the territories.

The DAVAR political correspondent adds that the cabinet announcement expressing regret and protest at what was said by Vance to the effect that the settlements in Sinai contradict international law and that, because of this, they should not exist was passed unanimously at the end of a basic political debate in which most of the ministers took part and which lasted for 2 and ½ hours. The debate was opened and closed by Prime Minister Menahem Begin, who also read the concluding announcement.

MA'ARIV REPORTS ON 12 FEB BEGIN-LEWIS MEETING

TA131639Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 13 Feb 78 p 5 TA

[Yosef Harif commentary: "'Sam' Turns Into 'Mr Ambassador'"]

[Text] The U.S. ambassador to Israel, Mr Samuel Lewis, had become one of the family in the prime minister's home. On entering, he would be received by the head of the house with a broad smile, a warm handshake and even with embraces and generally with a cry of joy: "Shalom, my good friend, Mr Lewis...."

During the conversation, Mr Begin was not accustomed to stick to exact protocol, and a long time ago he stopped calling Mr Lewis by his title, and used to simply call him "Sam." On Saturday night, an hour before Mr Lewis came to the prime minister's home to report to him on President Carter's talks with President as-Sadat, the atmosphere was different: The smile for the ambassador was minimal to a striking extent, and during the entire discussion, which was sharp, the prime minister called his guest not "Sam" and not even "Mr Lewis," but, demonstratively, "Mr Ambassador."

There is no doubt that Mr Lewis felt what was concealed behind the "change in address" and the new atmosphere of this "reception of a guest," except that this atmosphere was directed less at the guest than at the one who sent him. What ambassadors are good at is the skill with which they are careful to report to those who send them not only the contents of the talks, but also the atmosphere in which it is held.

More than once, even in public, from the Knesset podium, the prime minister noted, not without pride, that he was not spoken to in the way President Carter spoke to his predecessor, Yizhaq Rabin, in the famous talk last March (when the U.S. President used the language of threats and in fact did not hold a discussion with the former prime minister, but gave him an ultimatum).

But the prime minister was not satisfied with "atmosphere." He also saw to content, and what was included yesterday in the cabinet announcement at the close of the political debate was heard by the U.S. ambassador for the first time: Only after the Israeli peace program had gained the moral support of the United States did the cabinet decide to send its delegation, headed by Mr Begin, to Ismailia in order to make it known to the Government of Egypt. That is to say, that not only was Carter the first to hear the program's details but he also gave it his moral blessing. This is cautious language, which the prime minister took knowingly in order not to detail in precise words what he told Carter at the time--in December--about the program. As far as is known, Carter did not express any reservations. On the contrary, he was convinced that it would be difficult to oppose such a program!

Even in one of the most recent of the cabinet sessions, the prime minister said that he would not hesitate to enter into confrontation with the United States if the latter, after all, retreated from the "moral support" for the Israeli peace program in its two parts (that is, as regards the "administrative autonomy program" as well. It appears that whoever carefully studies yesterday's cabinet announcement, which was drafted by Mr Begin, will be able to make out such a willingness [for a confrontation] on the part of the prime minister--if the Israeli Cabinet loses hope that "the U.S. Government will reconsider its position in view of the positive talks held between the President and the prime minister in December 1977 with regard to the Israeli peace program."

Ambassador Lewis did not feel comfortable when the prime minister "descended" on him in an assault the ambassador is not accustomed to. This was so especially when Mr Begin very sharply criticized what was said by Secretary of State Vance, which sounded to the Cabinet of Israel like a diktat, pure and simple. Those present at the talk were able to get the impression that the ambassador himself was not happy with the move taken by his "boss," particularly when he heard the prime minister shouting: What is all this talk! On the one hand, Mr Vance decrees that the settlements should not exist and their existence is contrary to international law, and then almost in the same breath, he determines that "this matter (of the settlements) must be decided by both sides and they will have to hold negotiations." And do you not feel what is concealed in these words?, the prime minister asked the ambassador, when the latter was trying to claim that "in fact there has been no change in the U.S. position," and the U.S. interpretation has always been that expressed by Mr Vance--and does an "honest mediator" always act like this: He "leaves" the issue to negotiations between the sides, but he determines in advance what the result must be?

It is possible to understand Mr Lewis' claim about the traditional "U.S. interpretation." After all, it is his job to defend his government. But the gravity of this development to which we are witnesses is in the fact that this is the first time that a U.S. president has been personally identified with a U.S. program put forward as a basis for a solution. The Rogers plan was a terrible plan, and there is no doubt that it would not have been conceived without President Nixon's blessing. But it is a fact that the president deliberately did not want to link his name with that plan. The same applies to the "seven points" of Dean Rusk, who was secretary of state in the days of President Johnson. It is inconceivable that Rusk would have come out with his points for a settlement without the president's knowledge, but every previous president knew that the "supreme authority" must stand visibly on the side so that at the critical moment he would be able to enter the campaign and compromise between the two sides. Carter, however, has put himself at the head of the Egyptian side both on the question of the complete withdrawal from Sinai and on the question of the "homeland for the Palestinians," even though he has "linked" it with Jordan.

The cabinet announcement opens with the sentence: The Cabinet of Israel expresses its regret and protest at the remarks by the secretary of state, Mr Vance, at the press conference...."

At this stage the prime minister is not interested in deepening the freeze, and so he does not quote exactly what the President said to him. But let us assume that this is indeed President Carter's view: Why did he regard the Begin program as "basis for negotiations" when he specifically heard from Begin that Israel would not give up the settlements or the Israeli defensive shield in them? And why did he not at once inform the prime minister of the view of the U.S. Government, as expressed by Secretary of State Vance now?

The prime minister said: "For 7 weeks we did not hear--even after we, on 27 December 1977, sent the peace program, in writing, to the U.S. Government--that 'the settlements should not exist'!"

All of a sudden the U.S. administration gets out of any sort of commitment--the U.S.-Israeli "working paper," the moral and practical support for the prime minister's peace program--and goes back, from the aspect of content, to the U.S.-Soviet working paper, which speaks about the "legitimate rights of the Palestinian nation."

A man very close to the President, the very prestigious journalist James Reston, tried to sweeten the pill and wrote at the end of the week that Carter was not leaning toward Egypt and this entire act of blowing up the matter of the settlements was only intended to push As-Sadat into resuming the negotiations.

If this is indeed the reason for the strange U.S. hyperactivity, then this is not a quieting tactic, but one which is very worrisome on the part of such a power as the United States. The prime minister apparently had a less sophisticated but rather graver interpretation, and so he stated: "There is no political objective whatsoever which will push Israel into putting almost all its civilian population within shooting range of the enemy and placing its very existence into direct danger."

"No political objective whatsoever"--in other words, not even in return for peace. This is possibly the essence of the political announcement by the cabinet in reaction to the "press conference" by the U.S. secretary of state.

BEGIN HOLDS MEETING WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR ON 14 FEB

TA140925Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 14 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin conferred with the U.S. ambassador to Israel, Samuel Lewis, this morning. They discussed the recent developments in the relations between Israel and the United States and the continuation of the negotiations in the region.

Lewis Comments on Meeting

TA141105Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 14 Feb 78 TA

[Text] U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis this morning met with the prime minister and said afterward that a meeting between Mr Carter and Mr Begin is possible in the coming weeks. However, nothing was clearly determined. Mr Lewis told our political correspondent that the ties between Israel and the United States have remained close and warm although such relations do not exclude the possibility of disagreement and misunderstanding from time to time. The ambassador said that he will talk [as heard] with Mr Begin about the chances of the negotiations and the plans for the arrival of U.S. assistant secretary of state, Alfred Atherton, in Jerusalem. He will come next week.

DAYAN COMMENTS ON U.S. ROLE, PEACE PROCESS

TA140631Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 14 Feb 78 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said in Chicago tonight that for all the help the United States has given Israel over the years and in all spheres, Israel will not be able to rely on the United States as the sole element responsible for its security. The foreign minister said that the United States is the best mediator in the Middle East but that as a mediator it should not take a position. Our correspondent Dan Shilon talked with the foreign minister in Chicago yesterday. [begin recording]

[Question] Does the U.S. statement not allude to possible U.S. pressure in the near future?

[Answer] First, it alludes to an opinion they have on this matter, an opinion which, when expressed by them, in our opinion, makes it much more difficult for us to conduct the negotiations with the Arabs. After they say, as they have said, that the Israeli, Jewish settlements in the Rafah approaches should not exist there, it is clear that it is far more difficult for us to conduct negotiations with the Egyptians on this matter. This is the major difficulty. I do not think that one can now infer from this that these remarks include elements of pressure on Israel. At this stage, the damage of these remarks is in making the conduct of negotiations harder. The damage does not lie in that if we do not agree to the U.S. conception, there will be pressure on Israel from the United States. It is possible that this will happen, but we should ' rry about both joy and trouble in due time.

[Question] At the press conference in Chicago you said that U.S. arms sales to Egypt may be reasonable but should be within the framework of a peace agreement between Israel and Egypt, not before or during the negotiations. What did you mean?

[Answer] If indeed a peace agreement materializes, Egypt will have peace with Israel and will also be linked with the United States the way we are. It will be severed from the Soviet Union. I assume that in the framework of such a peace agreement, all the limitations, both the limitations pertaining to the amount of arms and the way they should be used--there can be room for selling U.S. arms to Egypt [sentence as heard]. However, if this is done without a peace agreement, there is a great fear that in the course of the negotiations this weaponry may contribute to Egypt's intransigence and may also be used by it for negative purposes against Israel. I cannot imagine that the United States, when for Egypt it takes the place of the Soviet Union, wants, from this point of view, to behave like the Soviet Union and to prepare Egypt for another war against Israel. It only wants to maintain its influence in Egypt and the relations of friendship formed between them.

[Question] I hope not. The Arab world receives arms from various sources either directly or indirectly. It is not at all difficult for the United States to make sure that arms sold to Israel will not be used for attack against any Arab country. Can anybody conceive of our attacking Egypt or Syria or Jordan....

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[Question, interrupting] I meant something else, that their conditioning will be in other spheres, such as concession.

[Answer] I am explaining why I think there is no connection between the two things. The difference between us and the Arab countries with regard to arms is that we are not suspected of using weapons for offensive, aggressive purposes. We have never done this and there is no danger or fear that we will do this. Second, we are not in the same situation in which the Arab countries find themselves. At the moment, the Soviet Union actually pushes arms into both Iraq and Syria. The arms which are in Libya and in Saudi Arabia can find their way to Egypt. Israel's situation is not similar. Egypt also knows how to procure arms in Europe, France and other countries. Therefore, I do not think that there can be a comparison between the two parties here. [end recording]

PERES RETURNS, REMARKS ON AS-SADAT MEETING

TA131718Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 13 Feb 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] The Labor Party chairman, MK Shim'on Peres, returned from Europe a short while ago. While attending the Socialist Internationale meeting, MK Peres met with a number of European leaders as well as Egypt's president, Anwar as-Sadat. At Ben-Gurion airport, MK Peres said he is not bringing with him a message from As-Sadat to Begin, but he is in possession of information he will deliver to the prime minister. Our correspondent Yosi 'Ozrat brings us excerpts from MK Shim'on Peres' remarks. [begin recording]

[Peres] I cannot reveal a great deal from the meeting with As-Sadat. I can only say three things: 1) there are real and substantive differences of opinion between us; 2) not all the ideas and possible solutions to overcome those differences of opinion have yet been exhausted to the hilt, and 3) to the best of my knowledge, the continuing of serious negotiations toward peace between us and Egypt and other Arab countries is definitely called for and I certainly grant this effort has a reasonable prospect.

['Ozrat] To the question of whether he thinks that the negotiations with Egypt would ultimately succeed, MK Peres replied:

[Peres] In my view, yes. I remember the two series of negotiations during the two previous instances: the 1974 and the 1975 agreements. There were moments when we all thought that we had reached the end of the road and the end of all limits, and, nevertheless, solutions were found. I have never believed that all the problems could be solved in one move, even if one terms it a full and comprehensive solution. [end recording]

DAVAR REPORTS ON SHARON'S 'IMAGINARY' SETTLEMENTS

TA131423Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Feb 78 p 1 TA

[By Nahum Barne'a]

[Text] In the context of his attempt to establish "agricultural posts" [tazpi'ot] in northern Sinai, which was recently frozen by the Ministry of Defense, Minister of Agriculture Ari'el Sharon asked the Rafah approaches settlers to scatter branches around the sites of the "posts" in order to create the misleading impression that settlements had been established there. One of the members of the Sadot settlement in the Rafah approaches told the DAVAR correspondent this yesterday.

According to the moshav member, Sadot had rejected Sharon's request because they suspected its validity. Another member of the moshav confirmed that Sharon had made such a request, but said that it had been the decision on a freeze on the work which released Sadot from giving a final answer.

The members of the action committee of the Rafah approaches settlements said yesterday that they had been surprised by the absence of cabinet recognition of the essential components of the peace program. They said that they had asked the legal adviser, Professor Baraq, what the entrance and exit arrangements would be for Arabs and Jews to the rafah approaches according to the peace program.

Baraq replied that there would be free passage for Jews from Israel to the approaches and free passage for Arabs from Sinai to the approaches. The settlers asked him how it would be possible then to prevent free passage for Arabs from Sinai to the main part of Israel. After some thought, Baraq said that that point had not been considered and he assumed that they would have to establish border points between the Rafah approaches and Israel.

Afterward the settlers, according to them, put the same questions to Minister Without Portfolio Hayyim Landau. Landau replied that he did not know of any document granting Arab passage from the Sinai territory to the approaches. As will be recalled, according to the Begin program, the territory of the approaches is a part of the territory under Egyptian sovereignty.

Yesterday the DAVAR correspondent reported on a freeze in the Sharon program. A Ministry of Defense source explained after publication to a radio correspondent that the minister of defense had ordered the military governor to freeze the program. This report was later denied by the deputy minister of defense, Mordekhay Zippori, but the text is open to interpretations.

Zippori's denial expresses the embarrassment prevailing last night at the top of the cabinet against the background of the Americans' uncovering the Sharon campaign at its peak. It cannot be dismissed that decisions on this issue were affected by relations between the ministers. A source from the prime minister's office said that the establishment of the posts was frozen "for the moment." A tour of the Rafah approaches by the DAVAR correspondent showed that the heavy equipment used in putting the campaign into operation had been removed and no further "posts" were being established.

Sharon's request strengthened the impression created among the region's settlers that in fact the cabinet had been trying to establish "imaginary settlements" in northern Sinai, not real settlements, and that a part of Sharon's activities had been a deviation from the cabinet directives--if not in actual deeds, then at least in the dates of carrying them out and maybe also in the size of the area of establishment. Sharon's "posts" program doubles the territory today considered to be the Rafah approaches.

This is what an "agricultural post" a la Sharon looks like: bulldozer, working rapidly, clears the top of a sand hill. On the top a temporary building is erected, of the type generally used by the Jewish Agency Settlement Division. Around the building a fence is put up, and at the fence a notice is placed claiming the ownership of the "agricultural post" for one of the existing settlements in the area.

The notice's contents are misleading: There is no connection between the settlements of the area and the "posts," and the members of the action committee of the Rafah approaches who toured the approaches yesterday with the committee of editors repeatedly stressed this.

Ministry of Agriculture sources who had in the past denied reports about settlement operations in northern Sinai, yesterday confirmed the report published in DAVAR of a freeze in the program. The sources linked the freeze to the political negotiations with Egypt. According to the radio, imaginary settlements had also been established in Wadi al-'Arish under the title of "clearing land for oil drillings." The radio quoted a source in the U.S. State Department who had expressed satisfaction in reaction to the decision to freeze the operations.

Since As-Sadat's visit some of the cabinet ministers have been pushing for hurried settlement campaigns in northern Sinai. The first settlement campaign was authorized even before Begin's departure for the meeting with As-Sadat in Ismailia. The campaign, which was supported by Ministers Dayan and Sharon, was authorized by Begin. A report on the agreement among the three ministers was published in DAVAR in December and vigorously denied by Minister Sharon. Within a few days the Ministry of Agriculture retracted the denial.

Later the cabinet decided, under U.S. pressure, to restrict the area of the program and content itself with "fleshing out" existing settlements. However, parallel to this, over recent weeks the settlement division and the Jewish National Fund began to help the campaign to stabilize "posts."

One of the prevalent assumptions among elements in the approaches area is that the minister of defense's directive to halt the establishment of the "posts," which was given on the eve of his departure for one of his rounds of talks in Cairo, was not carried out immediately by Sharon and was in fact carried out only some days later, after additional action had been taken on this issue.

MK Me'ir Pa'il from the Sheli faction yesterday submitted an urgent proposal for the agenda following the DAVAR report.

JERUSALEM REPORTS HEAVY SHELLING IN S. LEBANON

TA132043Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Feb 78 TA

[Excerpt] In the enclave north of Metulla, heavy exchanges of fire are underway at this hour between the terrorists and the Christian forces. The terrorists shelled most of the villages in the enclave during the day. A 17-year-old girl was killed in Marj 'Uyun and 3 persons were wounded in B'ir (Niman). Our correspondent remarks that this is the heaviest terrorist shelling of Christian villages since the implementation of the cease-fire in southern Lebanon.

Phalangist Commander Interviewed

TA140741Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 14 Feb 78 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] The recent battles between Syrian and Lebanese soldiers in Beirut are arousing the concern of the Phalangist commanders in southern Lebanon. They claim that the Syrians' intention is to reopen the offensive in order to liquidate the Lebanese Army and take control of Lebanon. They find evidence for this also in the renewal of the terrorist shellings of the enclave villages. Our correspondent Yehezqel Hame'iri spoke with the commander of the Phalangists in the central enclave, Major (Judayik).
[begin recording]

[Hame'iri] Maj (Sami Judayik) claims that the Syrian Army, which entered Lebanon under the cover of an inter-Arab defensive army whose task was to put things in order, is in effect nothing but a conquering army. The clashes between the Syrian Army and Lebanese Army in Beirut constitute the decisive stage in the accomplishment of Syria's schemes to take over Lebanon.

The commander of the central enclave does not fear that the Syrian intervention will spread into southern Lebanon. It is known that the Syrians will not dare come this far. There is someone who prevents them from doing this--his allusion is to Israel, of course. However, the events in northern Lebanon have an effect on and direct implication for southern Lebanon.

Major (Judayik) disclosed that the demonstration at the good fence in the Dovev area yesterday was held at the request of the Christian leaders in Beirut to arouse world public opinion against the imperialist schemes of Damascus and thus aid the Christian forces in Beirut, forces which are struggling for Lebanon's independence.

The Phalangist commander has no doubt that the Syrians have now opened a new offensive whose ultimate goal is to annex Lebanon to Syria or, at least, to gain total Syrian control over Lebanon. At this stage, they wish to weaken and liquidate the Lebanese Army in addition to the Phalangist forces. The next stage will be to abolish the regime of parties in Lebanon and to hand over control to the Syrian Ba'ath Party. [end recording]

MINISTER RELUCTANT TO GIVE UP SINAI OILFIELDS

TA1314477 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 Feb 78 TA

[Text] The minister of energy and infrastructure says that the government does not intend to give up the Sinai oilfields easily. Exploitation of the oilfields will be discussed in the part pertaining to our economic and commercial relations with Egypt when an agreement is signed. The minister was replying to Prof Yosef Rabbani, director of the Hebrew University Energy Research Center. The scientist claimed that Israel is not sufficiently aggressive on the oilfield issue. In his view, the oilfields should be accorded an importance equal to that of the settlements in the Yamit District.

MINISTER: U.S. HAS NOT REQUESTED OIL-DRILLING HALT

TA1309527 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 13 Feb 78 p 3 TA

[Text] "To date no official approach has been received from the U.S. Government to cease the search for oil in the At-Tur area," the minister of energy and infrastructure, Yizhaq Moda'i, said last night in reaction to a report published yesterday in the paper OIL AND GAS, which appears in the United States.

According to the report in the paper, the U.S. Government announced that Israel has no right to use the natural resources in Sinai because the rights to the oil drillings were given in 1974 to a joint company established by the Government of Egypt and the U.S. company AMOCO.

JORDAN REPORTEDLY READY TO AID WEST BANK

TA1219457 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Feb 78 TA

[Text] A group of village council leaders in Judaea and Samaria appealed to the military authorities this week requesting permission to go to Jordan in order to solicit funds. Our correspondent Rafiq Halabi has learned that the Jordanian government last week sent a message to the council leaders announcing that it had allotted funds for development plans in the territories.

Our correspondent points out that all Jordanian promises to grant funds to the towns of Judaea and Samaria were not kept during the past year and this latest announcement should be regarded as something new in Jordanian policy.

Ramallah Mayor Goes to Jordan

TA130647Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 13 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Ramallah Mayor Karim Khalaf is in Jordan on the first stage of a fund-raising tour. Khalaf is a well-known PLO supporter and his meeting in Amman yesterday with [Information Minister] 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah was his first with a Jordanian minister. Khalaf claims that the Jordanians have been holding up money sent to the municipality by Algeria.

AL-FAJR: WEST BANK MAYOR INVITED TO JORDAN

JN110755Y Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 8 Feb 78 p 2 JN

[By correspondent Abu 'Arafah]

[Text] Jerusalem--It has been learned that one of the mayors of a municipality in the southern part of the West Bank has received an invitation from Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, Jordanian chief of the royal court, to participate in consultations now taking place in Amman. A number of personalities and dignitaries loyal to Jordan have also been invited to take part. It is understood that Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf is the originator of this idea.

11 ARRESTED IN NABULUS FOR INCITING DEMONSTRATIONS

TA121635Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 12 Feb 78 p 1 TA

[By Yosef Walter]

[Text] The security forces in Nabulus arrested 11 people last night on suspicion of inciting last week's demonstrations and strikes. The arrests were carried out in the wake of the ferment and disturbances of public order lasting over a week in Nabulus. The authorities are now checking whether the suspects are connected with some illegal organization.

SECURITY PRECAUTIONS REPORTED IN WEST BANK

TA121731Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 Feb 78 p 1 TA

[By Tawfiq Khuri]

[Text] About 30 Arab personalities living in the Ramallah area have been asked to take special precautionary measures in view of the fear that an attempt to assassinate them will be made. It is assumed that these personalities are included on the list the terrorist organizations have made of people marked for liquidation. Over the last 2 months, three personages were murdered by the terrorists after they were charged with "cooperating" with the authorities. An additional murder attempt failed.

At the end of the week security forces held a series of discussions and consultations in the wake of the recent assassinations. In the course of the discussions fear was expressed that the acts of murder will disrupt cooperation between the population and the military authorities. Fear was also expressed regarding the well-being of moderate Arabs. It has recently been reported that various employees of the military authorities have begun to think about whether or not to continue their employment. There is also fear that the continuation of the murders will contribute to radicalizing the atmosphere in the Arab streets. The commander of the Judaea district police, Avraham Shashti'el, has appointed a special investigatory team to look into the murder last week of Christian millionaire 'Abd an-Nur Khalil Janhu. It has been learned that there have been no developments in the investigation at this stage, and it appears that the assassin did not leave any traces.

BANGLADESH

BANGLADESH, YUGOSLAVIA SIGN PROTOCOL 11 FEB

BK1110O7Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 11 Feb 78 BK

[Text] Bangladesh and Yugoslavia have signed a protocol covering trade, financial assistance and cooperation in the fields of education, technical and cultural affairs. The protocol was signed in Dacca today at the end of the third session of the Bangladesh-Yugoslavia joint commission. The presidential adviser for planning, Dr N.M. Huda, and the leader of the Yugoslav delegation and cochairman of the commission, Mr Stojan Andov, signed the protocol on behalf of their governments.

The commission, set up in 1973, will have its next session in Belgrade next year.

Cooperation Talks End

LD1312llY Belgrade TANJUG in English 1100 GMT 13 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Dacca, February 13 (TANJUG)--The Yugoslav-Bangladesh Mixed Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation has ended its third session here.

Head of the Yugoslav delegation, Federal Executive Council member and Yugoslav Co-Chairman in the committee Stojan Andov, was received in Dacca by President of Bangladesh Ziaur Rahman. Andov also had separate talks with Minister for Planning Huda, Foreign Minister Shamsul Huq, Minister of Commerce Saifur Rahman and other officials of Bangladesh.

The talks passed in a cordial atmosphere. Good and friendly relations between the two non-aligned countries and their close cooperation in the non-aligned movement and within the developing countries were emphasized in the talks.

It was mutually established that important results in bilateral economic cooperation have been scored and that there are considerable possibilities for the expansion of this cooperation. In this connection, new proposals regarding a wider assortment of goods in bilateral trade were made. The committee also reviewed progress on projects being executed by Yugoslav enterprises in Bangladesh and new possibilities for bilateral cooperation in this domain.

YUGOSLAVIA TO PROVIDE AID IN JETTIES CONSTRUCTION

BK1111OOY Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 11 Feb 78 BK

[Text] Bangladesh is to get $23.5 million from Yugoslavia for completion of the construction of five jetties of Chalna Port by the end of this year. An agreement to this effect has been signed in Khulna between the port authorities and a Yugoslav firm. The agreement ratifies the earlier one signed in 1973 and is to (?give) Yugoslav assistance in the form of equipment and expertise to complete the jetties within the scheduled time.

Our Khulna representative says that on completion of these jetties at a cost of about 420 million taka, the loading capacity of Chalna Port will rise up to 25 lakh tons annually. The port authority has also undertaken a plan to complete two more jetties of 10 lakh tons capacity by 1980.

Meanwhile, work on the construction of four (?private) cells and four warehouses under a 189 crore taka permanent port project is going on in full swing. On completion of the project, the gap between the shippers and the consumers will be reduced to a great extent and will accelerate the pace of development in the field of trade and industry.

INDIA

MINISTER REPORTS ON VISITS TO SRV, LAOS, THAILAND

BK101703Y Delhi ISI in English 1521 GMT 10 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The following introductory remarks were made by the minister of state, Somarendra Kundu, at a press conference in New Delhi on 10 February:

I returned early this morning from a week's visit to Vietnam. I had gone there at the head of an economic delegation and our purpose was both to prepare the ground for the forthcoming visit of His Excellency Premier Pham Van Dong and also to give an impetus to the development of our economic cooperation with Vietnam. I am happy to inform you that our delegation was largely successful in the attainment of both these objectives.

On the preparations for Premier Pham Van Dong's visit, we have virtually finalised the drafts of the agreements on cooperation in the fields of economy and trade, science and technology and agricultural research. These agreements are likely to be signed during the forthcoming visit of Premier Pham Van Dong to which we are eagerly looking forward.

We also had in-depth discussions with our Vietnamese colleagues on their priorities in the task of reconstructing their economy after the ravages of a long and devastating war. The two fields to which they attach the highest priority are the rehabilitation of their transport network, particularly the railways and the development of agriculture and livestock. We have agreed to cooperate with them in both these sectors as a gesture of our solidarity and as a concrete demonstration of our faith in the importance of economic cooperation amongst the nonaligned countries. We have given the Vietnamese side an indication of the line of credit which we would be prepared to extend to them in cooperation with our banking system, to finance their import of railway equipment and in particular rolling stock from India. The discussions are in progress between the competent organisations of the two countries--the Projects and Equipment Corporation on our side and Machinoimport on theirs--on the conclusion of formal contracts. Our expectation is that these are likely to be concluded before long.

A beginning has already been made between India and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in the field of cooperation in agriculture and livestock breeding. As you know, we have agreed to set up a rice research institute and a buffalo breeding centre in Vietnam. The two teams of experts visited Vietnam last month in connection with the implementation of these projects and our intention is to help in setting them up with the utmost expediency. Our gift of Mura buffaloes has been highly appreciated by the Vietnamese authorities and we hope to do more in this direction. We have also expressed our willingness to provide training facilities for Vietnamese students in our agricultural universities and other technical training institutions.

I had the honour during my visit to Vietnam of being received by His Excellency Premier Pham Van Dong and we were able to have an exchange of views on a wide range of political and economic issues. Premier Pham Van Dong poetically described Vietnam's relations with India as being like "a serene blue sky without a cloud." He said that he was looking forward with keen anticipation to his visit to India and I assured him about the warm welcome which awaits him. As the first minister of the Janata government to have the privilege of visiting Vietnam, I also conveyed to him the greetings and good wishes of our prime minister and of the government and people of India.

I had also the honour of being received by the Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh and our discussions were marked by great warmth and cordiality. I came back with the clear impression that the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam attaches great importance to the forging of closer relations with India. We fully reciprocate this desire as we are convinced that this would be in the interests of both our countries and would also contribute to the stability of the region as a whole.

Our delegation paid its homage to the memory of the late President Ho Chi Minh by laying a wreath at his mausoleum on the morning after our arrival in Hanoi. We also paid a visit to the small two-roomed cottage in which he lived in conditions of stark simplicity and it was difficult not to be reminded of the simplicity of the father of our nation, Mahatma Gandhi. Even though the methods adopted by India and Vietnam during their freedom struggles were different, we have both been privileged to have leaders of extraordinary courage and breadth of vision whose contributions to the shaping of contemporary history have far transcended the frontiers of their countries.

Our Vietnamese hosts also took us on a visit to Ho Chi Minh City and Hue. In Ho Chi Minh City, we paid a visit to a large textile complex and also to a steel rerolling mill. These are also the sectors in which there is a clear scope for cooperation between our two countries, though this cooperation may well come a little later in view of our resources constraints.

Our delegation was received with great warmth, friendliness and hospitality wherever we went in Vietnam. We were overwhelmed by the kindness and thoughtful attention of our hosts, and I would like to take this opportunity to express our grateful thanks and sincere appreciation to the government and people of Vietnam.

By a symbolic coincidence our delegation was in Vietnam when our Vietnamese friends brought in the new year on the midnight of 6-7 February. I shall never forget the enthusiasm of the people as hundreds of thousands of them rang out the year of the snake and rang in the year of the horse round the beautifully lit Lake of the Restored Sword--Huan Kiem--in the heart of Hanoi. It is our ardent wish that the year of the horse will witness galloping progress in the reconstruction of the Vietnamese economy and that Indo-Vietnamese relations will also take rapid strides.

I cannot conclude this brief account of our visit to Vietnam without mentioning that, despite a generation of suffering and war, the courage and resilience of the Vietnamese people was everywhere in evidence. A people who have retained their capacity for spontaneous smiles and laughter in spite of the gruelling ordeal through which they have passed cannot but have a bright future.

After our visit to Vietnam we stopped over for a day each in Vientiane and Bangkok. In Vientiane, I was received by the vice premier, Nouhak Phoumsavan, and the foreign minister, Phoun Sipaseut. My talks with both of them were friendly and wideranging. They covered perspectives for growth, our bilateral relations and also the recent developments in our respective regions. There were also two rounds of discussions between our official team led by V.K. Ahuja, secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs and the Laos team led by their Vice Foreign Minister Nouphan Sitphasai. The discussions were helpful in identifying the fields for further cooperation between India and Laos and we hope to step up our cooperation with them, particularly in the fields of agriculture, livestock breeding and education, to which they attach the highest priority.

In Bangkok, I was received by His Excellency Doctor Uppadit Pachariyangkun, the foreign minister of Thailand. He spoke about the ancient historic and cultural links between our two countries and the new dimension which was being added to them in the economic field, particularly by the Indo-Thai joint ventures. The discussions on a new joint venture in the field of fisheries have already made very considerable progress and it is our hope that they can be finalised shortly. I also mentioned to Doctor Uppadit our desire for cooperation with the Asian countries and he welcomed it.

I have returned from the region with my conviction reinforced about the vast reservoir of goodwill in all these countries for India and about the substantial scope which exists for strengthening our relations with them in all fields--political, economic and cultural. It shall be the endeavour of the Government of India to take speedy followup action with a view to further strengthening and consolidating our relations with them and other countries in Southeast Asia with which we have long-standing cultural and political ties.

DESAI HOPES FOR FRIENDLY INDIAN-CHINESE RELATIONS

BK1117327 Hong Kong AFP in English 1727 GMT 11 Feb 78 BK

[Text] New Delhi, Feb. 11 (AFP)--Indian Premier Morarji Desai today expressed his government's desire for friendly relations with China.

Speaking at a public meeting at Belgaum in Karnataka, in the south of the country, Mr Desai said: "We want no quarrel with China and Nepal. We want all problems solved without resorting to arms...and war".

Mr Desai was apparently referring to the conflict along the Sino-Indian border which began in 1962. Chinese Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping recently said that China would like to normalise relations with India.

Mr. Desai said today his government had reciprocated China's desire for friendly relations.

GANDHI CRITICIZES JANATA'S ECONOMIC, SOCIAL PLANS

BK1216107 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Feb 78 BK

[Text] Mrs Indira Gandhi has expressed concern about the state of affairs in the country since the Janata Party came to power. Addressing public meetings in Cachar District of Assam, she said the economic condition of the country has deteriorated in the last year. She reiterated that the Janata government is following what she called anti-Harijan and antiminorities policies. Mrs Gandhi charged that reactionary forces were active to disgrace her image and accused the Rashtriya Swyamsevak Sangh [Hindu extremist organization] of sabotaging her meetings.

In Silchar there were black flag demonstrations by youths. Stones were thrown at the dais. Mrs Gandhi, who was on the dais, was escorted by the police and taken to the circuit house. But Mr Pranab Kumar MukherJee, a Congress-I leader, is reported to have been injured.

JANATA PRESIDENT INJURED BY CONGRESS SUPPORTERS

BK1316l0Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The Janata Party president, Mr Chandra Shekher, today sustained minor head injuries when a mob of Congress supporters attacked his car with lathis [sticks] and stones at Akkloch in Sholapur District of Maharashtra. With blood oozing from a cut on the left side of his head, he was rushed to a nearby government hospital and was given first aid.

After a brief rest with head bandaged, Mr Chandra Shekher left for Pandharpur to address a public meeting.

Mr Chandra Shekher has telegraphically requested the chief minister, Mr Vasant Rao Patil, and the chief election commissioner, Mr S.L. Shakhdar, to take serious note of the incident.

HERALD COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH IRAN

BK1311455Y Delhi NATIONAL HERALD in English 6 Feb 78 p 5 BK

[Editorial: "Indo-Iranian Ties"]

[Text] The shah of Iran has been a good friend of India and his current visit to this country will ensure further cooperation between India and Iran. He should not view the demonstrations staged by students on the day of his arrival in New Delhi as a sign of hostility; the students were protesting against the repression that has been going on in Iran. India will be happy if he liberalises the regime in Teheran. A significant section of the intelligentsia in Iran is finding the political climate oppressive. No country, however rich in resources, can progress if the people are denied basic freedoms. The shah loves his people and it should not be difficult for him to concede the legitimate demands of the students and other sections. His current effort is to strengthen Iran's economy and modernise Iranian society. His government has a commendable economic programme and its success will be quick if there is a liberal political system.

Iran has become a major power in west Asia, not only because of her vast oil resources but also because of her formidable collection of military hardware. Her defence expenditure rose from $170 million in 1956-57 to over $559 billion in 1976-77. It is essential for Iran to go on buying arms and thereby posing a threat to the neighbouring countries? Iran's close ties with the United States seem to have made her a pawn in superpower rivalry. This interference may be wrong but it is in her own interest that Iran should resist the temptation to become strong merely on the strength of her military power. The shah seems to think that the growing presence of Soviet ships in the Indian Ocean poses a long-term danger to the vital oil shipping routes to the West. Saudi Arabia also has been spending a lot on developing modern armed forces. Defence is important but no less important is the need for a liberal political system.

India has shown no interest in influencing Iran's foreign, domestic and military policies and this is not the time for the Government of India to suggest to the shah what he should or should not do in matters concerning his country. He is a most welcome guest and his visit has provided an opportunity for India and Iran to strengthen their ties. The shah has already spelt out his idea of a common market coveri.; Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and some other countries in addition to India and Iran. It is hoped that there will be a detailed discussion of the proposal and the concerned countries will be persuaded to accept it. Both the shah and Mr Morarji Desai have stressed the benefits of enlarging areas of co-operation between the two countries. They are of the view that once bilateral cooperation acquires adequate strength, it can provide a basis for multilateral and regional cooperation.

The talks between the shah and Mr Desai have been till now mostly on bilateral issues. It is significant that the shah has made a generous offer of further Iranian investment in several projects in this country. The indication is that the extent of Iranian investment will depend, among other things, on the type of projects and the fields in which they are rooted. Iran has offered help in the construction of the Rajasthan Canal and in aluminum projects in this country. In turn, India is ready to help Iran in electrification of the railways.

While strengthening economic cooperation, the two countries should not overlook the need for greater understanding on the political plane. India has been firmly adhering to non-alignment and even the Janata government have not deviated from the policy although they are guilty of certain lapses. By following nonalignment, the two countries can contribute towards world peace. Iran's stand in this respect is not adequately helpful but it can be hoped that she will not forget her responsibility in ensuring not only stability but peace in the gulf region.

NEPAL

MONGOLIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES; TALKS BEGIN

BK1015262 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 10 Feb 78 BK

[Text] Formal talks between Nepal and the Mongolian People's Republic started in Katmandu today. The talks on the Nepalese side were led by Foreign Minister Mr Krishna Raj Aryal, and the Mongolian side by the minister for foreign affairs, Mr Mangalyn Dugersuren.

The 50-minute talks between the two countries is to be followed by another round of talks tomorrow. It is learnt that the first round of talks were held in a frank and cordial atmosphere. [passage indistinct]

Earlier on arrival at Tribhuvan Airport today on a (?4-day) official visit to Nepal, Foreign Minister Mr Mangalyn Dugersuren was accorded a warm welcome by Foreign Minister Mr Krishna Raj Aryal. [Words indistinct]. Speaking to newsmen at Tribhuvan Airport, the Mongolian foreign minister said that his visit to Nepal would contribute to further development of friendly relations existing between Nepal and the Mongolian People's Republic.

Talks Concluded

BK1116002 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 11 Feb 78 BK

[Text] Formal talks between Nepal and the Mongolian People's Republic concluded in Katmandu today with both sides emphasizing the need to further expand and consolidate mutual contacts, particularly the cultural exchange program, in the future.

Both sides are known to have expressed the belief that the exchange of visits at various levels would contribute significantly to the expansion of such contacts. Various means to further consolidate mutual cooperation in international forums on matters of interest to landlocked countries were discussed with special reference to Nepal and the Mongolian People's Republic, according to an official concerned.

The Nepalese side headed by Foreign Minister Mr Krishna Raj Aryal acquainted the Mongolian side with Nepal's peace zone proposal in the context of institutionalizing peace.

Mongolian Foreign Minister Mr Mangalyn Dugersuren led the Mongolian team at the talks which covered, among other issues, matters related to the international situation and bilateral relations.

The talks were held in an atmosphere of cordiality.

PAKISTAN

U.S. REPORT PRAISES PAKISTAN ON HUMAN RIGHTS

BK121204Y Karachi Overseas Service in Bengali 0115 GMT 12 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The United States has praised Pakistan for effecting significant changes in the field of human rights since Gen Ziaul Haq took power. The U.S. State Department has issued its annual report on the human rights situation in 105 countries, including Pakistan.

The report said that under the Bhutto regime thousands of political opponents were imprisoned following the March election. After the imposition of martial law, virtually all of them were released. The judiciary has been strengthened and fair court trials encouraged.

The report particularly welcomed the invitation extended to Amnesty International to investigate conditions in Pakistan.

It further said that the present government in Pakistan has significantly reduced the restrictions on press freedom imposed by the Bhutto regime and that there is, in fact, no press censorship at present in Pakistan.

DPRK VICE PRESIDENT MAKES BRIEF STOPOVER IN KARACHI

BK120930Y Karachi Overseas Service in English 0030 GMT 12 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The vice president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mr Pak Song-chol, arrived in Karachi for a brief stopover from Pyongyang last evening on his way to South Yemen. Mr Pak Song-chol leaves Karachi for Paris.[as heard]

PAKISTAN TO TRANSPORT WHEAT FROM INDIA TO AFGHANISTAN

BK110828Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 10 Feb 78 BK

[Text] Pakistan has agreed to the transportation of wheat from India to Afghanistan on humanitarian grounds. This follows the request from the World Food Organization which said that Afghanistan was threatened with certain famine conditions due to wheat scarcity and there might develop a serious situation if the supplies were not rushed. A delegation of Pakistan railways is being sent soon to India for negotiations to supervise ways for the transportation of wheat to Afghanistan.

SRI LANKA

VIETNAM PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG TO VISIT IN EARLY MARCH

BK1107302 Hong Kong AFP in English 0727 GMT 11 Feb 78 BK

[Text] Colombo, Feb 11 (AFP)--Prime Minister Pham Van Dong of Vietnam will make an official visit to Sri Lanka in early March, official sources said today.

He is expected to arrive here on about March 1 for a 3-day visit, the sources said.

An official announcement of the visit is expected to be made soon.

BRIEFS

INDONESIAN ENVOY TO AFGHANISTAN--The presidential office has reported that Indonesian Ambassador in Kabul Abdorachman Gunadirdja presented his credentials at 0110 today to President Mohammad Daoud. [Kabul in Dari to Europe 1230 GMT 13 Feb 78 LD]

INDIAN CONGRESS LEADER RESIGNS--New Delhi, 5 Feb.--Dr S.D. Sharma, Congress Working Committee member and former Congress president, has decided to quit the party and join the Congress under the leadership of Mrs Indira Gandhi. The decision of Dr Sharma, a former union minister, is part of the simmering discontentment in the Reddy-Chavan camp over the overall functioning of the organisation. Dr Sharma was elected member of the Congress Working Committee in May last. [Delhi NATIONAL HERALD in English 5 Feb 78 p 1 BK]

BRITISH AID TO PAKISTAN--It has been officially announced in London that Britain is providing 10 million pounds to Pakistan for the Tarbela development fund. The grant is Britain's contribution toward the cost of further emergency repairs to the dam for which the World Bank has agreed to raise 77.7 million pounds. [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 11 Feb 78 BK]

PAKISTAN NUCLEAR MEDICAL CENTER--Work on a nuclear medical center at Islamabad is to start soon. It will cost rupees 23 million. This is the seventh center to be set up by the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission in the country. [Karachi Overseas Service in English 0330 GMT 11 Feb 78 BK]

PAKISTANI DELEGATION TO UGANDA--An eight-member Pakistan trade delegation led by the adviser on industries and production has left on a 5-day visit to Uganda. During the visit, they will discuss prospects for strengthening the economic and trade relations between the two countries. [Text] [Karachi Overseas Service in English 0030 GMT 10 Feb 78 BK]

SRI LANKAN EXPORT OF COCONUT OIL--(Council Expo) has resumed the export of coconut oil following the lifting of the ban on the export of this item. According to the chairman of (Council Expo), samples of coconut oil have been sent to some 15 purchasing countries with a desire to promote export. [Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 29 Jan 78 BK]

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